

Awareness Bulletin

This bulletin has been issued to VESI Distribution Businesses and their Contractors to highlight that there is a responsibility to ensure that all Live Work equipment is maintained and stored correctly and used for its intended purpose.

It is a requirement that the user of all live work equipment (including LV) ensures that it is fit for its intended purpose and inspected and cleaned prior to use as mandated in:

-) The Minimum Rules for Carrying Out High Voltage (HV) Live Work In Victoria Section 12
-) AS 5804.1 Section 10 and 11, AS 5804.2 Section 5 and 6 and AS 5804.3 Section 5
-) Organisational Procedures
-) VESI Fieldworker Handbook
-) Green Book

The inspection and cleaning of equipment is an important step in ensuring that it is in a safe and serviceable condition and is acceptable for use.

Changes introduced to the Australian Standard for testing increased the electrical testing voltage from 45kV to 75kV per 300mm for fiberglass sticks.

Results under the new testing standard have seen an increase in equipment failing the electrical test, due to poor condition. This highlights the need to maintain equipment in good working order.

Workers are reminded to ensure that the equipment being used is fit for service.

Below are samples of Live Work equipment in poor condition;



Condition of Sleeves presented for testing



Cleaning tray not used for intended purpose

Examples of equipment in poor condition.



Damaged stick



Cleaning demonstration on a hopper



Insulating blanket in poor condition



Incorrect treatment of Gloves & Sleeves