

Extract from Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991
Regulation 55

55. Electrical work on or near energised electrical installations

- (1) A person who carries out electrical work, or causes electrical work to be carried out, on or near an energised part of an electrical installation commits an offence unless the person carries out the work, or causes the work to be carried out, under sub-regulation (2).
- (2) A person may carry out electrical work, or cause electrical work to be carried out, on or near an energised part of an electrical installation if —
 - (a) a risk assessment has been undertaken by a competent person who is familiar with the type of work to be carried out; and
 - (b) the competent person is satisfied that —
 - (i) there is no reasonable alternative to carrying out the work while the part of the electrical installation is energised; and
 - (ii) the risks identified by the risk assessment are or can be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable; and
 - (iii) the work can be carried out safely;and
 - (c) if the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* regulation 3.143 does not apply to the work, a safe work method statement for the work has been prepared in accordance with regulation 3.143(4) of those regulations, as if the work were high-risk construction work and the place where the work is to be carried out were a construction site; and
 - (d) suitable safety and personal protective equipment is used by the person carrying out the work.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-regulation (2)(b)(i), there is no reasonable alternative to carrying out the work while the part of the electrical installation is energised if one of the following applies —
 - (a) it is necessary that the part of the installation be energised for the work to be carried out effectively;
 - (b) it is necessary that the part of the installation be energised because carrying out the work by alternative means would put the health or safety of one or more persons in imminent and significant danger;
 - (c) it is necessary that the part of the installation be energised in order to test, measure the performance of, or detect or locate faults or defects in, the installation or the part of the installation.
- (4) An electrical contractor or the holder of an in-house electrical installing work licence who carries out electrical work, or causes electrical work to be carried out, under sub-regulation (2) commits an offence unless they ensure, as far as is practicable, that —

- (a) if the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* regulation 3.143 does not apply to the work —
 - (i) the work is carried out in accordance with the safe work method statement referred to in sub-regulation (2)(c); and
 - (ii) if the work is not carried out in accordance with the statement, the work ceases (when safe to do so) and does not resume until the safe work method statement is complied with;and
- (b) the safety and personal protective equipment referred to in sub-regulation (2)(d) is used properly by the person carrying out the work.