

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Arc Flash PPE

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

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Location: National

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Overview

Following recommendations from electrical safety incidents that have occurred, arc flash PPE has been issued for use by Distribution and Plant staff.

This instruction confirms the mandatory arrangements for staff.

Immediate action required

Distribution and Plant staff shall wear their current issued arc flash PPE when:

- Performing local switching operations directly at the switchgear panel.
- Performing testing and earthing activities including applying or removing portable earths prior to safety document issue or under a sanction for test.
- Returning to service withdrawable switchgear onto an energised busbar.
- Synthetic, nylon and/or polyester materials should not be worn underneath the PPE. Wearing natural, 100% cotton, clothes as undergarments, such as jeans and a long sleeved shirt, is recommended.
- These requirements are to be incorporated into the updated version of Task Risk Control Sheet DP01 – Working on High Voltage Equipment.
- Staff who do not have the required PPE should order such items from the PPE catalogue (Foul Weather FR and ARC Clothing Catalogue). This should be the Flame Retardant Waterproof Coat (FR2) and Flame Retardant Salopette (FR04) or FR Waterproof Over Trouser (FR05).

Copies of Safety Advice are available on [Safety Central](#).