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## FOREWORD

1.1 The guidance on Regulation 14 of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 contained in the Supporting Memorandum of Guidance on the Regulations (reference HSE booklet HSR25 is that from the point of view of safety, work on or so near electrical equipment where **Danger** may arise should be carried out with the equipment not **Live**. Regulation 14 does, however, recognise that there are circumstances in which work on **Live** electrical **Apparatus** may be carried out, provided the decision to do so can be properly justified and providing suitable precautions are taken to prevent injury.

1.2 Justification for carrying out work **Live** on Scottish Power **Systems** is derived from:-

- (i) The requirements of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 and subsequent amendments.
- (ii) The availability of **Approved** written procedures.
- (iii) The training provided before **Persons** are permitted to work **Live**.
- (iv) Evidence of continued competence to work **Live** following regular re-assessment and retraining of staff.
- (v) Evidence of continued safe working shown from periodic accident statistics.
- (vi) Evidence of continued compliance with Live Working Procedures shown during regular audits.
- (vii) Live Working Procedures contained in the Manual which have been assessed as low risk using evaluation techniques as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive.
- (viii) The low level of risk, the effectiveness of training and regular site audits which are set against disproportionately disruptive and costly consequences should the **Live** conductors be **Isolated**.
- (ix) The impracticability of carrying out some work (particularly **LV** cable jointing) unless conductors are **Live**, because phase, neutral and earth conductors must be identified.
- (x) The lack of suitable instruments to reliably indicate whether or not particular **Apparatus** is **Live**.
- (xi) Risk of hardship or **Danger** to customers which may be brought about by the unnecessary removal of supply.
- (xii) Loss of revenue or working capability for customers which may be brought about by the unnecessary removal of supply.

1.3 There are no defined voltage limitations on the application of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and as defined in the Regulations "Electrical Equipment" includes every type of electrical equipment from, for example, 400 kV overhead lines to a battery powered hand lamp and may include electrical equipment on vehicles. Work on electrical equipment in shops, offices, customers premises, workshops, testing stations, garages, construction sites or any other place of work as well as work on or in connection with generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electrical energy will therefore come within the scope of the Regulations.

1.4 For the purposes of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, **Live** work includes operations and **Live** testing, for example, the use of potential indicators on mains power and control logic circuits.