

BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety at Work

Issue 1 – October 2010

ELECTRICAL SAFETY



“Raising Standards, *Saving Lives*”

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KEY POINT

Electricity kills and injures people.

Around 1,000 electrical accidents at work are reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) each year and about 25 people die of their injuries.



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WHAT ARE THE MAIN HAZARDS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRICITY?

- Contact with live parts causing shock and burns
- Fire caused by faults
- Fire or explosion where electricity is the ignition source
- Shocks leading to other injuries
- Overloading electrical sockets
- Arcing



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WHAT DOES MY EMPLOYER HAVE TO DO TO REDUCE THE RISK?

- Carry out a risk assessment
- Reduce the risk by:
 - » Providing safe and suitable equipment
 - » Reducing the voltage
 - » Providing a residual current device
 - » Carrying out safety checks of equipment
- Ensure users have enough information, instruction and training
- Ensure frequent visual checks by users



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SOME PIECES OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT HAVE FUSES FITTED. WHAT DO THEY DO?

- A fuse will fail if the electrical circuit is overloaded. This will protect the equipment from any further damage.
- Remember:
 - » Fuses only protect equipment, not people
 - » Only use a fuse of the correct rating
 - » Never use anything other than a fuse to replace a blown fuse



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HOW DO I USE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SAFELY?

- Only use equipment you have been trained to use and follow instructions
- Always switch off and unplug before cleaning or adjusting equipment
- Carry out a visual inspection before you use it and report any faults to your supervisor
 - » Damaged cables and leads
 - » Loose, cracked or damaged plugs
 - » Damage to casing of the equipment
 - » Exposed electrical wiring
 - » Scorch or burn marks

