

MID SPAN ISOLATOR GUIDELINE COMPLIANCE

This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites, Employers and workers in the Victorian Power Industry are aware of the new VESI HV Live Work – Mid Span Isolator Maintenance Guidelines. VESI state that the purpose of this document is to provide consistency across the Victorian Power Industry regarding the ongoing and routine maintenance of Mid Span Isolator Units (MSI) units.

We remind all members that this Guideline must be adhered to at all times when installing/removing MSI's or undertaking works on, or adjacent to any span containing MSI's.

We specifically draw attention to the mechanical certification of MSI's as our members have discovered that although these devices are Electrically tested the mechanical certification requirements are not being met.

All MSI's should be mechanically tested and certified by an approved testing facility prior to use and retested at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

They shall be visually inspected for defects to the insulator and endcaps prior to undergoing mechanical testing. The test should be conducted in a horizontal plane with the round holes in line with the insulator at either end of the switch used to test pull to 15kN.

Turnbuckle and straining devices must be inline with the insulator. (Not to be connected to the MSI at any other hole or location)

Records of annual maintenance should be readily available for individual devices.

As Turnbuckles may be swapped out and changed between devices they shall individually be mechanically tested and certified by an approved testing facility prior to use and retested at intervals not exceeding 12 months. All devices must individually be listed on a register recording test results and dates.

All employers must ensure that all employees are properly inducted into and understand

the requirements of the Guideline. We ask all members to insist their employer conduct a full audit of all MSI devices including those currently installed on the network.

Any device that is not fully compliant and does not have the appropriate certification must not be utilised.

Any device currently installed on the network must not be worked on or near or relied upon as an isolation point unless the VESI HV Live Work – Mid Span Isolator Maintenance Guidelines are proven in writing to have been fully complied with. This includes removal of the devices.

Employers must provide an agreed Safe Work Practice (SWP) to adequately mitigate the risks presented when removing any non-compliant devices currently in use. We encourage workers and HSRs to seek advice from their ETU organiser before agreeing to a SWP or participating in the creation of a SWP.

Further to this we call upon all employers to immediately cease installing MSI devices and immediately implement bans on works at any site that currently has MSI's installed. This includes as a lifting/straining device or electrical isolation until evidence is provided that those devices are fully compliant with the VESI Guidelines.

Employers have a duty to ensure their workplace is safe, and this means adhering to all guidelines and controlling the risk of electrical incidents. Employers have failed in their duty.

Please contact your organiser immediately should you have any questions or if your employer refuses to comply with the above guidance.

Link to the Guidelines. [VESI HV Live Work - Mid Span Isolator Maintenance Guidelines](#)

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