



Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments
Ministry of Labour and Employment



Electrical Safety



Electricity is very useful as it provides the power for light and machinery. Electricity can however quickly cause injury and death. Regular maintenance of the electrical system can prevent these and also untimely failure of the system, which disrupts production.

- The installation, modification and maintenance of the electrical system must be made by competent electricians.
- The electrical installation must be inspected and certified every 12 months by an accredited person or institution BLR 58 (2 & 8).
- When electricity mistakenly comes into contact with the human body (e.g. due to exposed contact, frayed cable, defective tool), it can cause burns, hemorrhage and even death.
- Short circuits, loose contacts and broken conductors cause overheating and can lead to a fire. To prevent these, cables should be supported on cable racks or in trenches, of appropriate size and protected BLR 58 (1 & 7).

- The electrical circuits must be equipped with protective devices in order to automatically shut off electricity in case of fault condition BLR 58 (3). There are various types of protective devices: some protect against electrical shock, others against short-circuit /overheating.
- Many of the problems related to electricity are caused by modification of the production infrastructure without corresponding modification of the electrical system (e.g. increasing the number of machines).
- It is important to conduct periodically a risk assessment for electrical hazards (BLR Schedule IV 2 b IV). Based on the results, corrective actions can be taken, and work procedures can be developed to ensure safe working.
- All new workers should receive basic training on electrical safety during their induction. It is important to remind workers about their obligation to inform about any hazard they discover (BLA 86).
- The factory needs to make sure that the workers & first aid workers know how to react in case of electrical shock.
- Workers must use electrical equipment in accordance with the work procedure and the training received.
- Regular maintenance of the electrical equipment prevents the accumulation of dust, which could catch fire. Pest control is also needed as rodents chew the insulation of the cables.



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