Power Suspension Arrangement for Electrical Work

When carrying out electrical work, Registered Electrical Contractors (RECs) and Registered Electrical Workers (REWs) shall strictly follow the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations.

To ensure the electrical work is carried out in a safe environment, the upstream switch or circuit breaker must be switched off and isolated, and an appropriate warning notice securely displayed before the electrical work is carried out. The switch or circuit breaker should also be locked off if it is equipped with a locking mechanism, so as to prevent accidents caused by the switch or circuit breaker being inadvertently turned on during the electrical work.

When implementing the power suspension arrangement below, one should also bear in mind the possibility that neutral wires may still be energised under special circumstances. For example, after the triple pole circuit breaker is switched off, its neutral wires may still be energised. It is therefore important that REWs must first have an understanding and assessment on the overall circuits, and take appropriate safety precautions before carrying out the relevant electrical work.

Please refer to the following diagrams for the principles and detailed information on power suspension arrangement for electrical work.

**Situation (1)**
- The circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked.

**Annotation:**
- When carrying out electrical work on the incoming circuit breaker of the main switchboard and related installations, electricity supply from the power company must be cut off.
- The interconnection circuit breakers (if any) must also be switched off, isolated and locked.

**Situation (2)**
- Position of electrical work.
- Electricity supply from the power company must be cut off.

**Annotation:**
- If the main switchboard is powered by more than one transformer, all electricity supply from the power company to the main switchboard must be cut off when carrying out electrical work for all incoming circuit breakers of the main switchboard and related installations.

**Situation (3)**
- Risk assessment and adequate safety precautions must be taken.
- The incoming circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked.

**Annotation:**
- When carrying out electrical work for other electrical installations (i.e., electrical installations downstream of the incoming circuit breaker) in the main switchboard, the incoming circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked.
- Moreover, to prevent coming into contact with the live parts when carrying out electrical work in the main switchboard, risk assessment and adequate safety precautions must be taken prior to the commencement of electrical work.

**Situation (4)**
- Risk assessment and adequate safety precautions must be taken.
- The mains circuit breaker must be switched off.

**Annotation:**
- When carrying out electrical work for other electrical installations (i.e., electrical installations downstream of the incoming circuit breaker) in the main switchboard, the incoming circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked.
- Moreover, to prevent coming into contact with the live parts when carrying out electrical work in the main switchboard, risk assessment and adequate safety precautions must be taken prior to the commencement of electrical work.

**Situation (5)**
- Switch located outside of the distribution board.

**Annotation:**
- When carrying out electrical work for the switch of the distribution board, the upstream circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked.
For your safety, switch off electricity supply before electrical work.

**Situation 6:**
- Switch installed inside of the distribution board
- Transformer
- Distribution board
- Switch installed outside of the distribution board

**Situation 7:**
- Position of electrical work
- L1, L2, L3
- Transformer
- Distribution board
- Switch installed outside of the distribution board

**Annotation:**
- If the switch is installed inside of the distribution board, and electrical work is to be carried out on other electrical installations in the distribution board (i.e., electrical installations downstream of the switch of the distribution board), the upstream circuit breaker must be switched off, isolated and locked when the electrical work is carried out.

**Remarks:**
This leaflet is for reference only. Electrical workers should strictly comply with the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations when carrying out electrical work.

**Electricity Legislation**

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