25 kV ac Overhead Line Equipment

Always be sure the required plans and permits are in place, before you start a job or go on or near the line.

Brief

❑ Permits in this context are describing the process of authority for isolating the OLE and providing a safe electrical environment for work on or in the vicinity of 25 kV ac electrical equipment. The isolation processes are detailed in
  ▪ NR/SP/ELP29987 – ac electrified lines work instructions

❑ Permits are not required either when,
  ▪ A risk assessment confirms it is unlikely for anybody or equipment to come within 2.75 metres of the OLE or
  ▪ A risk assessment and written method statement have been authorised by the EPME, DPE or a competent person approved by the RAM in accordance with NR/SP/ELP/29987 for work to be attempted which will, or is likely to, result in any part of a person's body or clothing or anything to be used, coming within 2.75 metres of any live part of the OLE but more than 600mm

❑ In all other cases, an overhead line permit issued in accordance with NR/SP/ELP/29987 is required

This lifesaving rule applies to

❑ Working on, or near, conductors that may be energised at 25 kV ac. This includes, but is not limited to,
  ▪ Catenary system including contact wire
  ▪ Bare feeders
  ▪ Autotransformer Feeders (ATF)
  ▪ Supplementary conductors
  ▪ Exposed cable terminations
  ▪ Booster Transformers
  ▪ Harmonic Dampers
  ▪ Return Conductors (RC)
  ▪ SMOS equipment mounted on OLE masts

This lifesaving rule does not apply to

❑ Emergency switch-offs
❑ Local (depot) isolations (TOC rules apply)

Learning for the future

❑ All planning irregularities (including incomplete / inaccurate permits) shall be investigated using Fair Culture principles

Guidance/Notes

❑ An isolation walkout should have confirmed the limits of isolation, a sequence of switching and the method of earthing the location (STED Form). In the event of a change to the isolation since the walkout, or of a short notice request i.e. reactive work, the plan should be checked on site before implementation