

Arc Flash PPE - Updated Requirements

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

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Location: National

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Overview

Following a serious staff injury in Godinton dc traction substation in December 2018, Network Rail's arc flash PPE requirements have been reviewed and bench marked against our rail industry partners and Distribution Network Operators.

Common work activities (for traction & HV non-traction power distribution staff) have been risk assessed to calculate the required level of arc flash protection for an uncontrolled release of electrical energy.

A briefing pack, which includes a technical briefing presentation, a notice board poster and FAQs, has been produced to explain the updated arc flash PPE requirements when working on or near traction & HV non-traction power distribution equipment. The requirements have changed from those advised in March 2019.

The arc flash PPE requirements in this briefing pack supersede the previous requirements in the National Electrical Safety Briefing - Access to Distribution Sites March 2019, and also the National Safety Advice NRA17-09.

In addition, for Network Rail staff, the Task Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/DP01 'Working on or near traction and HV non-traction distribution equipment', has been reviewed. The revised document and technical briefing materials can be found on the Network Rail standards intranet page.

Immediate action required

These materials are available on Safety Central at the following link to download.

<https://safety.networkrail.co.uk/safety/electricalsafety/national-electrical-power-distributionsafety-briefing/>

This briefing is compulsory for all staff (Network Rail and contractors) that hold the following Traction Power Distribution competences:

- Level D Distribution (LD DIST)
- Level C Distribution (LC DIST)
- Level B Distribution (LB DIST ACi, LB DIST ACi+DCi)
- Level A Distribution (LA DIST)

The compliance date for completion of the briefings to all relevant staff and the issue of the required arc flash PPE is **6th June 2020**.

There is no requirement to record the completion of this briefing in the Sentinel system. However, attendance and any further actions must be recorded.

Within Network Rail, the recommended roles to facilitate and deliver this briefing are; IMDM, IME, EPME, or E&P RAM, HoD (E&P), DPE or SPE.

The briefer is not required to hold the DIST competences to deliver this briefing but support can be requested from STE if required.