

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 43-14	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	Lineside and Other Signalling Cabinets and Associated Cases and Metallic Parts	Issue Date: 30/12/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Background

There appears to be some misunderstanding as to the current requirements to test cabinets associated with signalling or its power supply before they are touched. Various notices/stickers are appearing on some cases, but these do not mean that the cases to which they have been applied are proven to be safe from the risk of electrical shock.

Actions and Learning Required

Network Rail Safety Bulletins 278, and 302 are still valid, as summarised below:

All signalling cabinets and functional supply points (power cases for signalling) and any conductive parts to which they are connected are still considered to be electrically hazardous. It does not matter if they are lineside, on stations or in any other place.

- If you **do not need to make contact**, **KEEP** 0.3 metres (1 foot) **CLEAR** at all times.
- If you **do need to make contact**, you must always **TEST BEFORE TOUCH** (as per NRS 278).
- If you are **working inside or on an FSP** (cabinet containing equipment above 175 volts), **RE-TEST** at appropriate intervals to make sure no live equipment has developed an insulation fault due to disturbance or other cause.

These rules **must be followed without exception**, and any **stickers or labels are to be ignored** until such times as formal instructions have been issued.

Conclusion

Test Before Touch, every time; no exceptions.

If you don't need to touch, keep at least 300mm away.

The voltage that could appear on a case or its metal support can be up to **3 TIMES THE NORMAL MAINS VOLTAGE**. It can kill in under a quarter of a second.



Never assume equipment is isolated
– always test before touch.

Source: Amey

