

MAKROSAFE Holdings (Pty) Ltd

SAFETY ALERT!

Electricity

The purpose of this safety alert is to highlight the dangers associated with electricity / DB boards and suggest possible control measures to assist industry to manage the risk.

Background

An electrician sustained a fatal electric shock whilst carrying out work inside a low voltage DB board. The licensed electrician had carried out some electrical tests on a compressor. The compressor had been taken to the DB board and then directly wired to the DB board.



At the conclusion of the tests, the electrician attempted to re-attach insulating tape to the terminals he had been using within the DB board. One of his hands came into contact with the adjacent live terminals, resulting in fatal electrical injuries.

Contributing factors

- ✓ The electrician was working in close proximity to live un-insulated terminals.
- ✓ The terminals for the incoming power supply could have been disconnected to de-energise live parts prior to commencing work.
- ✓ Exposed live parts within the DB board could have been isolated by way of insulating barriers or covers.
- ✓ Insulating mats could have been used to provide an electrically safe barrier on which the user could stand or kneel.
- ✓ The electrical worker did not wear insulating gloves where electrical hazards were present.

Action Required

- ✓ Where practicable, DB boards should be de-energised prior to work commencing inside the DB board.
- ✓ Where it is not practicable to de-energise live parts, risk assessments should be carried out and adequate controls implemented which could include:
 - The use of insulating barriers or covers over live parts;
 - The use of insulating mats; and
 - Wearing adequate personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves.

