



# Southern Shield

## Good/ Best Practice feedback

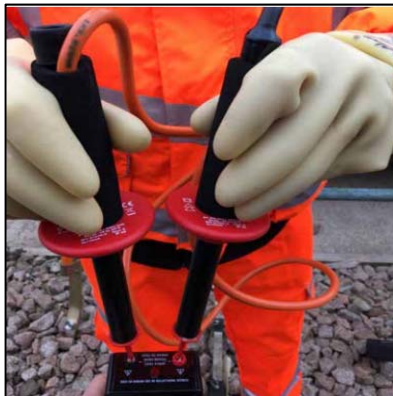
Nature of works

Test equipment

Date of good practice note

20/03 /2019

## LV test equipment



## Description of the good practice

All LV test equipment should comply with GS 38 guidelines.

The following must be adhered to:

- All equipment and tools should be approved and calibrated for use
- Only use equipment that you have been trained and competent to use and where you can interpret the results
- Equipment must be inspected before use, ensuring it is safe, in good condition.
- Equipment must be used in a safe way, complying with any specific manufacturer/company instructions or work method statements
- Equipment must not be modified in any way
- Equipment must be stored in a safe condition
- Equipment such as test lamps must be tested prior to use on electrical systems
- Only use equipment with approved fused leads when working on energised apparatus.
- Equipment must be sent for inspection and calibration prior to the 'do not use after date'
- Report all defects and damages to your line manager

## What are the benefits?

There have been a number of electrical incidents in recent years where non-approved test instruments have been used which have resulted in injury to users. Unsuitable electrical test equipment can cause serious burns or electric shock. Arcing or 'flashover' caused by the use of inadequate test probes can result in burn injuries. Contact with inadequate test probes can result in shock injuries. Arcs, once drawn,

ionise the surrounding air and cause further 'flashovers' to occur. These can rapidly engulf the working area, before anybody can escape.

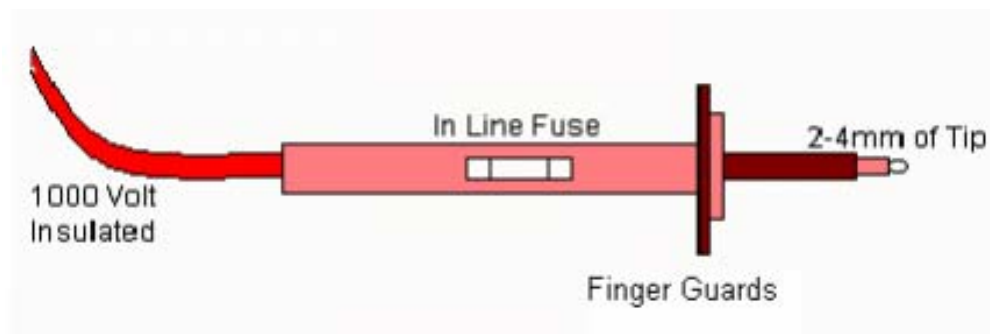
## Are there any drawbacks?

## Supporting Information

Under GS38 test leads, used to measure or apply voltages over 50Vac and 100V dc should:

- conform to the requirements of BS EN 61010-031 or in the case of a 2-pole voltage detector to BS EN 61243-3;
- be marked with the rated installation category – CAT II, III, or IV;
- be marked with the manufacturer's name or identifying mark; and have the following:
  - ▶ probes, and clips, which have:
    - Fused leads
    - shrouded connectors
    - finger barriers
    - identifiable leads
    - insulated flexible and robust leads
    - maximum of 4mm exposed tip (recommended 2mm, spring loaded).

When used with a multimeter, should have suitable high-breaking capacity (hbc), sometimes known as hrc, fuse, or fuses, with a suitable current rating (usually not exceeding 500 mA), except when used with a loop impedance or RCD tester where a value of 10 A is typically used or a current-limiting resistor and a fuse.



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