

Engineering Instruction Electrical Engineering

EI E 17-04 V2.0

OHW Structure to Rail Bonding – Rail Spark Gaps

This Engineering Instruction includes urgent engineering information. Adherence to the information in this Instruction is **MANDATORY**.

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Audience:

- Electrical Asset Engineers
- Electrical Construction Staff
- Electrical Maintenance Staff
- Earthing and Bonding Maintenance Staff
- Electrical Design Engineers
- Authorised Engineering Organisations
- Transport for NSW – I&S Electrical Staff
- ICON Electrical
- ASA Lead Electrical Engineer

Main Points:

- Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap (DEHN) to be used as the preferred spark gap arrangement for 1500 Volt OHW Structures.
- Work on Rail Spark Gaps to be in accordance with PR D 78303 Electrical Engineering Document.
- Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap installation Megger Test required.
- Unit to be sprayed with “Cold Gal” to deter theft.

Primary Affected Document: **PR D 78303 Work on 1500 Volt Negative Equipment Outside Substations**
PR D 78306 1500 Volt DC Overhead Wiring Structure to Rail Voltage Test
SWMS D2013/80641 Structure Bond Testing and Maintenance

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Scope

This Engineering Instruction (EI) introduces into use and provides installation and maintenance requirements for the new DEHN Rail Spark Gap and renaming of the existing Rail Spark Gaps used for Bonding 1500 Volt OHW Structures to rail.

This Engineering Instruction supersedes Engineering Instruction EI E 17/01, Electrical Technical Notes ETN 04/05 and for Rail Spark Gaps only ETN 09/19.

Background

Structures supporting 1500 volt equipment are connected to the traction rail at prescribed locations in accordance with Electrical Standard EP12 20 00 01 SP Bonding of Overhead Wiring Structures to Rail through a Rail Spark Gap arrangement.

There are currently two Rail Spark Gap arrangements in service, namely:

- The most common by far is the brass capsule on drawing EL 0585360 now called the “Mark 1 Rail Spark Gap”
- For some selected locations – Ferraz Unit on drawing EL0590277 now called the “Mark 2 Rail Spark Gap”.

The new DEHN (MA SDS Mast Adaptor Part Number 723199 and SDS1 spark gap capsule Part number 923110) Rail Spark Gap now called “Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap” was ASA Type Approved under approval number E00032. It is capable of discharging surges without forming a permanent short circuit and returning back to its original state. A permanent short circuit or failure of this unit will only occur if the surge exceeds its maximum limits.

Some of these Mark 3 Rail Spark Gaps were predominately trialled in the Blue Mountains and some other selected locations to drawing EL0191530 using a different housing and mast attachment. However the Type Approved Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap to drawing EL0573512 looks different but operates the same way using the same capsule (item 1) DEHN SDS1. Some Transport Projects may have already installed the Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap for their work.

The manufacturer of the Mark 1 Rail Spark Gap capsule has stopped manufacturing this unit. Therefore the Mark 1 Rail Spark Gap will not be used for future construction, modifications or capsule maintenance corrective actions. Old stock can be used up where available.

Traditionally track failures (track circuit failures) are sometimes attributed to failed Mark 1 Rail Spark Gaps capsules. Now with Mark 3 Rail Spark Gaps these track failures may only be seen momentarily and automatically reset unless it permanently short circuits due to failure of the unit.

The related drawings are:

- Mark 1 Rail Spark Gap (Old Spark Gap) – EL0585360
- Mark 2 Rail Spark Gap (Ferraz) - EL0590277
- Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap (DEHN) – EL0573512
- Bonding to rail for Mark 1 and Mark 3 – EL0583866.

Action required

1. Maintenance, Construction and Design are to use the “Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap” shown on drawings EL0573512 and EL0583866 for all new and existing installations as per Electrical Standard EP 12 20 00 01 SP. This will be the preferred Rail Spark Gap and is to be installed as per the attached installation instructions for the MA SDS M12 Mast Adaptor. It is to be noted that connection to the appropriate rail to be determined by the Signalling Engineer and in accordance with SPG 0709.

2. When installing a new Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap, or replacing the SDS 1 Voltage Limiter (Red Capsule Part Number 923110) within it, or suspect unauthorised tampering with the unit, the following Insulation Resistance (Megger) test is required across the cable connection side and the dome enclosure cover (across the spark gap). This is to test for the presence and correct operation of the SDS1 voltage limiter capsule and is to be conducted with the rail bond cable disconnected:
 - a. Apply 250Vdc – Acceptable equals an open circuit indication or high insulation resistance (Minimum 1MΩ)
 - b. Apply 1000Vdc – Acceptable equals a short circuit (the unit conducts at 600Vdc +/- 20%). The unit will need a brief time to reset before the next step
 - c. Apply 250Vdc again – Acceptable equals an open circuit indication or high insulation resistance (Minimum 1MΩ).If any of the above tests a, b or c are unacceptable then replace the capsule and carry out the above tests again.
3. The Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap is a shiny brass coloured unit, therefore upon installation the unit is to be sprayed with “Cold Gal” to deter theft of the unit. If repair work removes some of the original "Cold Gal" paint simply touch it up with "Cold Gal".
4. Staff carrying out maintenance or modifications to existing “Mark 1 Rail Spark Gaps” is to replace them with the Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap only:
 - a. When the bond is being modified due to a project or
 - b. When a capsule fails and no existing stock available or
 - c. In locations where there is frequent spark gap failures.
5. Staff engaged in work or testing of Rail Spark Gaps need to be conducted in compliance with Sydney Trains Engineering Procedure PR D 78303 “Work on 1500 Volt Negative Equipment Outside Substations” in particular Sections 7 and 9.
6. When a Mark 2 Rail Spark Gap – Ferraz unit is encountered, please contact Electrical Engineering for advice or follow the approved earthing and bonding design provided for your project.
7. Logistic Stores are to release for general issue the “Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap” units under stock codes 2095487 and 2095495 and set up stock levels for these stock codes.
8. Asset Management to update relevant databases and establish funding to allow for changing Rail Spark Gap units from Mark 1 to 3.
9. Rail Spark Gap defects are to be recorded in Teams3 or from July in Transport Equip.
10. Engineering and System Integrity’s Electrical Engineering to arrange update of relevant documents to include the Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap, namely:
 - a. Electrical TMP’s including updating the name for the Mark 1 and 2 Rail Spark Gaps
 - b. PR D 78303 Work on 1500 Volt Negative Equipment Outside Substations
 - c. PR D 71500 Volt DC Overhead Wiring Structure to Rail Voltage Test and
 - d. SWMS D2013/80641 Structure Bond Testing and Maintenance.
11. Engineering and System Integrity’s Electrical Engineering to arrange update of drawing EL0583866 to clearly show how to connect other OHW Structures in a daisy chain configuration onto one Rail Spark Gap, where required by design.

List of Attachments

1. Mark 1 Rail Spark Gap – EL0585360
2. Mark 2 Rail Spark Gap (Ferraz) - EL0590277
3. Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap (DEHN) – EL0573512
4. Bonding to rail for Mark 1 and Mark 3 – EL0583866
5. Installation Instructions for the Mark 3 Rail Spark Gap – DEHN (Mast Adaptor MA SDS M12 DEHN Part Number 723199)
6. Product Data Sheet for the SDS 1 Voltage Limiter Part Number 923110

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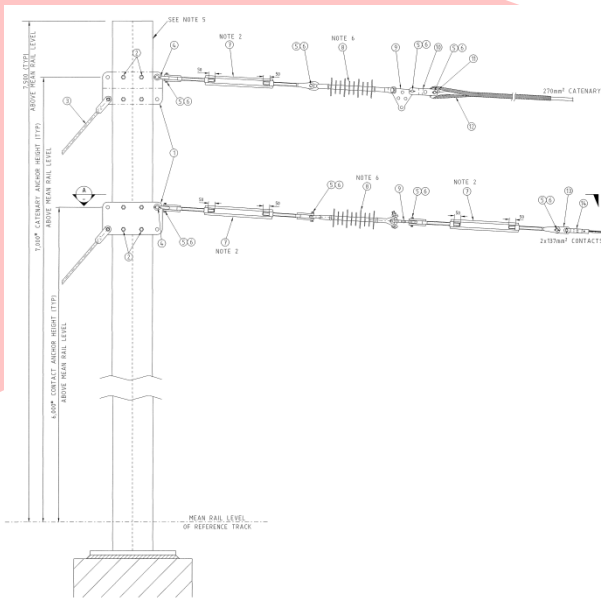
Engineering Instruction

Engineering Instruction Electrical Distribution Unit	EI D 19-04
Approved by: Nadine Youssef, Associate Director Electrical Distribution Unit, Sydney Trains Authorised by: Jonathan McKinnon, Engineering Technical Publications Manager, Sydney Trains	Date in Force: 28 November 2019 Date Expires: 28 November 2020
This Engineering Instruction includes urgent engineering information. Adherence to the information in this Instruction is MANDATORY .	
Working on 1500V Structures and Dead Legs	
Audience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sydney Trains• Transport for NSW	Main Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requirement to test 1500V structures safe prior to contact.
Primary Affected Documents: PR D 78306 1500 Volt DC Overhead Wiring Structure to Rail Voltage Test	

Scope

This Engineering Instruction sets out to clarify the requirements for situations when the work performed involves simultaneous contact between Overhead Wiring structure and another item that is at either at rail or the local earth potential.

Background



As defined in PR D 78306, an "Overhead Wiring structure" includes any conductive metal forming a fitting, mast, portal, overline bridge, footbridge, or over track development that is attached to the dead side of 1500 Volt DC insulators. This includes Dead Legs, i.e. any conductors and associated equipment between the 1500V DC insulators and the structure without any further insulation.

If a person forms a circuit between a 1500V OHW structure carrying energised equipment and a metallic item connected to earth or rail, the risk of persons receiving an electric shock is low but not zero. The risk of receiving an electric shock may become significant if the overhead wiring insulation is degraded or the rail potential rises if a train is powering or braking in the section – including adjacent tracks.

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Action required

- Metal structures connected to the local earth, such as:
 - galvanised steel troughs
 - fences
 - station platforms
 - buildings, bridges, handrails or barriers
 - metallic infrastructure in the rail corridor such as boom gates, pit covers, signalling equipment
 - tools powered from a GPO
 - metallic equipment installed on platforms or access paths
 - metallic scaffolds or elevated work platforms

must not be connected to rail, rolling stock or 1500V OHW structures except where the Authorised Engineering Organisation has submitted the design to Sydney Trains and received "No Objection" or equivalent from Sydney Trains.

- Painted or epoxy-coated metal objects bolted to or cast in concrete are not considered insulated and must be treated as connected to the local electrical earth unless proven otherwise by an electrical test.
- Where work involves simultaneous contact between 1500V OHW structures that support "LIVE" 1500 Volt DC conductor and Metallic objects that are either connected to rail or local electrical earth:
 - A voltage test, per PR D 78306, between the structure to rail and structure to the metallic object shall be carried out to prove the 1500V OHW structure is safe to work on and
 - The 1500V OHW structure shall be connected to rail via a spark gap.



NOTE

Should the structure test to be unsafe to work on i.e. >50V contact the Territory Electrical Engineer for advice.

When working on any 1500V OHW structure or structures connected to rail, only use electric or pneumatic power tools that are:

- battery operated or
- supplied from an isolating transformer, generator or inverter.
- ESI Electrical to explore the use of a portable voltage limiting device to maintain a safe voltage level for work activities that may bridge potentials between 1500V OHW structures and rail/earth.
- NMD Electrical in conjunction with ESI Signalling Integrity to develop a SWI for rail connection of structures.

Contact

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Engineering Procedure
Electrical Distribution Unit

PR D 78306

1500 Volt DC Overhead Wiring Structure to Rail Voltage Test

Version 1.1

Date in Force: 19 February 2019

Procedure

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1. Purpose and scope

This document describes the 1500 Volt DC Overhead Wiring (OHW) structure to rail voltage test and the circumstances under which it shall be carried out before work is performed on rail-connected 1500 Volt DC OHW. This document describes:

- Situations that require such a voltage test to be carried out, and
- The equipment that shall be used to perform the voltage test, and
- The procedure to be used to carry out the voltage test.

2. Definitions

- "Overhead Wiring structure" means any conductive metal forming a fitting, mast, portal, overline bridge, footbridge, or over track development that is attached to the dead side of 1500 Volt DC insulators and which under the previous spark gap policy would have been bonded to rail via a spark gap.
- "Rail connected Overhead Wiring" means any 1500 Volt DC OHW which has been connected to the negative return rail (traction rail) in the approved manner, and using the Approved permanent, temporary or portable rail connections.
- 'Rail vehicle' means any Approved wiring train or rail mounted road/rail vehicle.

3. Background

A previous investigation/risk management study carried out led to the general removal of spark gaps throughout the electrified system and identified that 1500 Volt DC OHW maintenance staff were potentially exposed to an unacceptable level of risk of electric shock, as a result of the removal of the spark gaps and this risk required mitigation.

The study identified that:

- 1500 Volt DC OHW maintenance staff working on rail-connected 1500 Volt DC OHW frequently make simultaneous contact with the rail-connected OHW and their supporting structures.
- 1500 Volt DC OHW structures supporting live 1500 Volt DC OHW are at risk of being livened up at 1500 Volt DC through the failure of an insulator connected to the structure and supporting the live 1500 Volt DC conductors. In such an instance, a spark gap fitted to the structure would operate and allow the associated DC Circuit Breakers to trip and de-energise the live 1500 Volt DC OHW concerned. Should a spark gap not be fitted to the structure, then a hazardous potential would exist between the structure and rail connected equipment.
- Consequently, 1500 Volt DC OHW maintenance staff when working on rail connected 1500 Volt DC OHW at a structure that is also supporting live 1500 Volt DC conductors, are at an unacceptable risk of receiving an electric shock.
- Due to vandalism, theft and unauthorised disconnection of spark gaps, this unacceptable level of risk existed prior to the decision being made to generally remove spark gaps and would not be cost-effectively remedied by system wide re-instatement of the spark gaps.
- The most cost-effective solution to this problem has been identified as being "the implementation of a test procedure prior to hands-on examination work by 1500 Volt DC OHW maintenance staff".

4. Situations that require the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage test

A 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage test shall be carried out before work is performed by persons authorised to work on the 1500 Volt DC OHW and where the work to be performed involves:

1. Working at an 1500 V DC OHW structure that supports live 1500 Volt DC conductors, including any structure supporting both live and dead circuits (with work to be carried out on the rail-connected 1500 Volt DC OHW circuit only), **and**
2. Working at an 1500 Volt DC OHW structure that is not fitted with a spark gap, **and**
3. Simultaneous contact being made between the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure **and** rail connected equipment such as either an Approved rail mounted Elevating Work Platforms (EWP's) or rail connected 1500 Volt DC OHW.

The following example is a situation in which all 3 of the above dot points are satisfied and thus you shall conduct a structure to rail voltage test before commencing the work.

Under an Authority, OHW work is being performed at a 4 track portal structure that is not fitted with a spark gap.	<i>Clause 4. Item 2</i>
The structure supports the OHW over all 4 tracks. The OHW on all 4 tracks is isolated under more than 1 Authority but the Permit you are working on covers only the OHW over the track that you are working on.	<i>Clause 4. Item 1</i>
You are planning to work out of a rail mounted EWP and the work will require making simultaneous contact between this structure and the EWP.	<i>Clause 4. Item 3</i>

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5. Equipment to be used for the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage test

Two testers may be utilised to undertake the required 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage tests:

- (a) The Test Kit comprising the 'Fluke' multimeter and accessories (hereafter abridged as the 'Fluke Tester'); or
- (b) The Hivotech 1500 Volt DC OHW Tester (hereafter abridged as the 'Hivotech Tester').

5.1. The Fluke Tester



The equipment to be used comprises of the following:

- ① Fluke series 170 digital multimeter



Note

Previous model series 70 is no longer available for purchase but is still suitable for use.

- ② Fluke C70Y yellow holster.
- ③ Fluke 80K-6 high voltage probe (earth lead lengthened to 5 m).
- ④ 5 m extension earth lead.
- ⑤ Rail clip with 300 mm earth lead tail.
- ⑥ 300 mm earth lead tail with 10 mm termination eye for attachment to rail vehicles.
- ⑦ An uncontrolled copy of this Procedure (not shown in photo).
- ⑧ 9V Battery (Eveready No. 216 6F22 or similar).
- ⑨ Plastic tool box for storage of the test equipment.

5.2. The Hivotech Tester

Refer to Section 7.4 of *PR D 78305 1500 Volt Operating Procedures* for more detailed description of this tester.

6. Procedure and 'safety' criterion common for using either tester

6.1. Common Procedure

The following shall be complied with for undertaking the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage test, irrespective of which tester is to be used:

- (a) Being hit by train is the most common hazard when working or even walking within the rail corridor. As such, all persons shall at least possess the Rail Industry Safety Induction (RISI) qualification.
- (b) Appropriate protection for working within the rail corridor shall be in place.
- (c) As one probe of the tester is to be attached to the rail, select the traction rail. (Refer to Section 5 of *PR D 78305 '1500 Volt Operating Procedures'* for how to identify the traction rail.)
- (d) Select the traction rail or portion of the traction rail which is reasonably clean and rust-free, otherwise clean the traction rail or remove rust to ensure good contact of the probe, which may be a rail clip or rail clamp.
- (e) Select the spot on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure which is reasonably clean and rust-free. Otherwise scratch the surface with a long insulated screw driver or other insulated tool, as shown below.



Note

Insulated gloves shall be worn if the screw driver or other tool is not insulated.

6.2. Safety Criterion

The 1500 Volt DC OHW structure is considered safe to touch if the measured structure to rail voltage does not exceed 50 Volt DC.



Note

If the measured voltage exceeds 50 Volt DC, seek advice from ICON Electrical.

7. Procedure for measuring the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage from a rail vehicle by using the Fluke Tester

7.1. Connect the HV probe ③ lead socket to the rail vehicle lead ⑤ plug.

If the distance from the rail vehicle lead ⑤ to the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure is more than 5 m, connect the 5 m extension lead ④ between the rail vehicle lead ⑤ and the HV probe lead ③ socket.

7.2. Connect the HV probe lead plug ③ to the multimeter ① and switch the multimeter to the position for measuring DC voltages

This is illustrated below.



The plug pin next to the "GND" lug shall be in the "COM" socket (the bottom hole). The lead plug housing will then be on the outside of the multimeter. The multimeter should show .000 VDC.

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7.3. Functional Check of the Fluke Multimeter



Hold the HV probe ③ on to the +ve terminal of the 9V battery ⑧ and the eye of the rail vehicle lead ⑥ on to the -ve terminal of the battery. The multimeter ① shall read between .011 and .007 VDC. The HV probe reduces the voltage 1000 times
ie. 9 V = .009 VDC on the multimeter.



Warning

If the multimeter ① reading is not between .011 and .007 VDC, repeat the test with a new battery ⑧.

If the new reading is still not between .011 and .007 VDC, return the test kit to your supervisor. Obtain another test kit and redo the complete procedure.

7.4. Bolt the rail vehicle lead ⑥ to the rail vehicle

All rail vehicles used for 1500 Volt DC OHW maintenance and construction shall have at least one attachment hole, 10 mm stainless steel nut and bolt installed on their work platforms to connect the rail vehicle lead ⑥ to the rail vehicle.

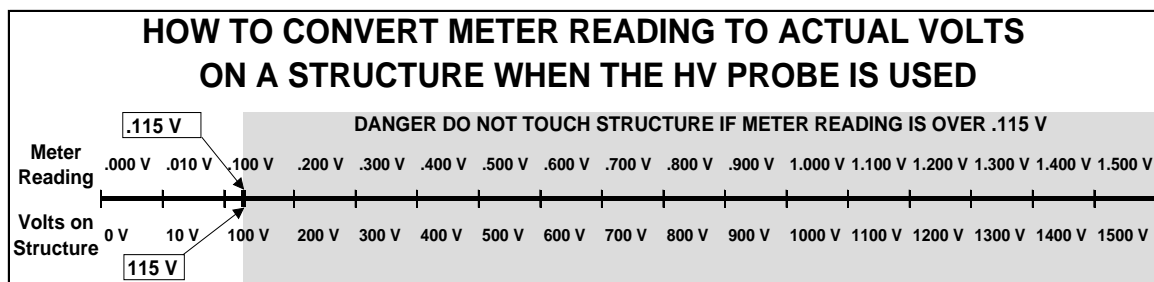
7.5. Measure the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure voltage

Select a spot on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure which is reasonably clean and rust-free. Otherwise, scratch the surface with a screw driver or other tool as described in Section 6.1 (e).

Hold the HV probe ③ by the black handle and touch the point of the HV probe on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure for at least 3 seconds.

Make sure that no part of the body touches the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

Use the conversion scale below to determine the actual voltages between the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure and rail.



Warning

If the multimeter ① reads at or above 0.051 Volt DC (ie. the actual voltage is equal to or above 51 Volt DC) the structure is at a potentially dangerous voltage.

Keep clear of the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

Warn every one in the vicinity of the danger.

Arrange for at least one staff member to stay at the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to warn of the dangerous condition.

Notify your supervisor and the ICON Electrical as soon as practicable.

Do not proceed with work on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

7.6. Re-test the test arrangement

Repeat the test as described in section 7.3 to verify that the tester was functioning for the duration of the test.



Warning

If the result of retest of the test arrangement is not satisfactory, then the entire procedure shall be repeated.

8. Procedure for measuring the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltage from ground by using the Fluke Tester

8.1. Connect the HV probe ③ lead socket to the rail clip lead ⑤ plug

If the distance from the rail to the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure is more than 5 m connect the 5m extension lead ④ between the rail clip lead ⑤ plug and the HV probe lead ③ socket.

8.2. Connect the HV probe lead plug ③ to the multimeter ① and switch the multimeter to position for measuring DC voltages

This is the same as Section 7.2.

8.3. Functional Check of the Fluke Multimeter

Refer to Section 7.3 for the same test.

8.4. Attach the rail clip ⑤ to the traction rail

Refer section 6.1 (d) for details.

8.5. Measure the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure voltage

Select a spot on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure which is reasonably clean and rust-free. Otherwise, scratch the surface with a screw driver or other tool, as described in Section 6.1 (e).

Hold the HV probe ③ by the black handle and touch the point of the HV probe on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure for at least 3 seconds.

Make sure that no part of the body touches the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

Use the same conversion scale as shown in section 7.5 to determine the actual voltage between the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure and rail.

If the multimeter ① reads below 0.115 VDC, proceed to section 8.6.



Warning

If the multimeter ① reads at or above 0.051 Volt DC (ie. the actual voltage is equal to or above 51 Volt DC) the structure is at a potentially dangerous voltage.

Keep clear of the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

Warn every one in the vicinity of the danger.

Arrange for at least one staff member to stay at the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to warn of the dangerous condition.

Notify your supervisor and ICON Electrical as soon as practicable.

Do not proceed with work on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

8.6. Re-test the test arrangement

Repeat the test as described in section 7.3 to verify that the tester was functioning for the duration of the test.



Warning

If the result of re-test of the test arrangement is not satisfactory then the entire procedure shall be repeated.

9. Procedure for measuring the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to rail voltages by using the Hivotech Tester

- (a) Carry out the self-test to ensure that the Tester is ready for use in accordance with Section 7.4.8 of PR D 78305 '1500 Volt Operating Procedures'.

- (b) Put the magnetic rail clamp onto the traction rail which is reasonably clean and rust-free. Refer section 6.1.
- (c) Attach an Approved insulated operating stick to the Tester and ensure that it is always firmly engaged during test.
- (d) Always hold below the hand guard of the Approved operating stick.
- (e) Place the knurled contact to the clean or rust-free spot of the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.
- (f) Read the voltage reading on the LCD display.
- (g) Carry out the self-test to ensure that the Tester is ready for use in accordance with Section 7.4.8 of *PR D 78305 '1500 Volt Operating Procedures'*.
- (h) Refer to section 6.2 to determine if the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure is safe to touch.



Note

If the Tester is left "ON" for approximately 3 minutes without any testing activity, the tester will switch automatically into "SLEEP" mode. The LCD screen of the tester will then:

- *Extinguish the backlight i.e. backlight is off*
- *Display a blank screen i.e. no numerals or figures.*

If a tester is in "SLEEP" mode, the tester shall be switched "OFF" and then "ON" before it can be used. (Refer Section 7.4.2 of PR D 78305 '1500 Volt Operating Procedures' for switching the Tester "ON".)



Warning

DO NOT touch the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure unless it is safe to touch.



Warning

If the measured voltage is equal to or above 51 Volt DC), the structure is at a potentially dangerous voltage.

Keep clear of the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

Warn every one in the vicinity of the danger.

Arrange for at least one staff member to stay at the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure to warn of the dangerous condition.

Notify your supervisor and ICON Electrical as soon as practicable.

Do not proceed with work on the 1500 Volt DC OHW structure.

10. References

T HR EL 0811 ST Overhead Wiring Maintenance Standards

PR D 78305 1500 Volt Operating Procedures

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