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Test for voltage before you work – It could save your life

Incidents and fatalities can be reduced / mitigated if workers:

1. Confirm voltage is not present and circuits are de-energized by using an approved tester rated for the system, before doing any work on electrical equipment.
2. Ensure voltage testers meet the minimum standards for safety, are used for the purpose and in a manner for which they are intended. This is required by Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) Rule 2-034 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Category III and IV measuring and testing equipment are required to be approved, as per OESC Rule 2-022 4) b). Approved Testers, certified to the applicable safety standards, such as CAN/CSA-C22.2 No. 231.0 or C22.2 No. 1010, are required to be marked.

Usage of a voltage tester that is not suitable for the purpose is a violation of OESC Rule 2-034 and may result in charges being laid under the Electricity Act.

Important steps that could save your life when you work on electrical equipment:

1. Assume all equipment and systems are energized until they have been tested and verified.
2. Ensure the correct disconnecting means for the equipment has been opened.
 - Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including voltage rated gloves, until the absence of voltage is confirmed.
3. **Confirm the absence of voltage.** Use a voltage tester, approved and suitable for the purpose, to ensure the equipment is de-energized.
 - a. Confirm the tester is on the correct setting for the purpose.
 - b. Measure a known voltage source to ensure meter/ tester is working properly.
 - c. Do not change settings while testing.
4. Follow the proper "LOCKOUT" procedure, along with other safety procedures, required by both the Occupational Health and Safety Act and your company.