

Electrical Injury

Activity:

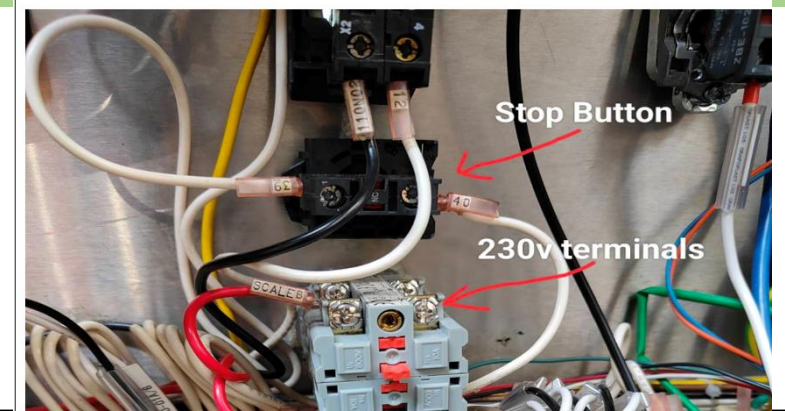
Incident Description: An electrical worker was repairing a faulty stop button on the distribution bagging line panel when they brushed against an exposed live 230 volt terminal. Fortunately the shock was minor in nature due to the mechanism of contact with no harm to the worker. The event was reported to WorkSafe NZ the following morning as the incident was recorded in MySafety only by the new Distribution supervisor and acting A&I team leader but was not escalated as required.

Potential Outcome: Serious harm

Causes (Immediate, Root Causes): Prior to replacing the faulty component, the worker did not test nearby componentry for electrical current. It should be noted that Causal Factor 2 (No labelling of 230 volt componentry) influenced this factor heavily as there were no 'signals' given to the Worker to remind them of presence of 230 volts.

No labelling present to indicate true function of 230v component along with misleading lead labels present indicating that 230v line was for a 'Scale' (usually 24 volts) instead of 'conveyor motor Switch' (with motors typically being 230+ volts).

Old obsolete 230 Volt contact had no touch protection (as now required by current regulations).



Lessons Learned:

Replace any old obsolete 230 Volt contacts with compliant componentry (i.e. compliant touch protection).

Install signage that clearly indicates the presence of 230 volt terminals within control panels (especially those that contain predominantly 24 volt circuits).

Confirm that all electrical componentry within a 300mm radius of the equipment to be worked on must be tested prior to commencing work to identify live componentry and voltages.