

Electrical Safety Procedures at the Company (continued)

- Never break off the ground prong of a three-prong plug to allow you to use it in a two-prong outlet. Any cord with the prong missing should be put out of service. If the ground prong is removed the piece of equipment is no longer grounded.
- Whenever you have to work on a piece of equipment, lockout and tag the electrical source to that piece of equipment to make sure that it is de-energized.
- Routinely inspect all cords, plugs, and electrical equipment for damage.

The Importance of Lockout/Tagout

Lockout/ Tagout is a method of keeping equipment from being set in motion and endangering workers. The OSHA lockout/ tagout standard is designed to prevent needless deaths and serious injuries to service and maintenance workers.

Before any maintenance is performed on equipment all sources of electricity shall be locked-out and tagged-out.

Lockout/ tagout procedures usually include:

- Identifying all energy sources to the piece of equipment.
- Turning off and shutting down all appropriate valves, switches, and circuit breakers.
- Locking out the piece of equipment by applying a lockable device over the energy- isolating mechanism to hold it in the safe or off position. Every worker who will be working on the equipment should attach his personal lock to the isolating device.
- Applying a tag to the isolation source identifying the work to be done and the person who applied it.
- After the piece of equipment is locked and tagged out, it should be checked to make sure that energy sources were not missed.
- Verify the main disconnect switch or circuit breaker can't be moved to the on position.

Removing Lockout/Tagout Equipment

Lockout/ tagout equipment should only be removed when the maintenance work is complete and the equipment has been determined ready for operation by qualified personnel. Except in emergencies, the person who put it on should only do the removal of lockout/ tagout devices.

Notes

Guarding

Live parts of electrical equipment operating at 50 volts or more must be guarded against accidental contact. Guarding of live parts may be accomplished by:

- Locating equipment in rooms, vaults, or enclosures accessible only to qualified personnel.
- Use of permanent, substantial partitions or screens to exclude unqualified persons.
- Locating equipment on a suitable balcony, gallery, or platform elevated and arranged to exclude unqualified personnel.
- Elevation of equipment 8 feet or more above the floor.

In addition, entrances to rooms and other guarded locations containing exposed live parts must be marked with conspicuous warning signs forbidding unqualified persons to enter.

Equipment Grounding

By grounding a tool or electrical system, a low resistance path to the earth through a ground connection is created. When properly done, this path offers sufficiently low resistance and has sufficient current carrying capacity to prevent the buildup of voltages which may result in a dangerous shock. This does not guarantee that no one will receive a shock, be injured, or killed from grounded equipment. However, it substantially reduces the possibilities of such accidents. OSHA requires that all exposed non-current carrying metal parts of permanently installed equipment which may become energized be grounded when the equipment is:

- Within eight feet vertically and five feet horizontally of ground or grounded metal objects and subject to employee contact.
- Located in a wet or damp location and not isolated.
- Connected by cord and plug.

Mechanical Protection Devices

Mechanical protection devices are designed to shut off the flow of electricity in the event of a ground fault, overload, or short circuit in a wiring system. Fuses, circuit breakers, and ground fault circuit interrupters are three examples of mechanical protection devices.

Notes

Background

Each individual working in the Company is at risk of being injured by electric shock. The magnitude of this risk is dependent on the employee's job tasks and work location(s). In order to maximize each individual's safety at the laboratory, each employee must be familiar with the Company electrical distribution system, the hazards of electricity, and safety procedures and precautions.

During this training we described the basics of electricity, the hazards of electricity, the Company electrical distribution system including high voltage areas, and electrical protection measures for minimizing electric hazards.

What questions do you have?

Notes

Electrical Safety-Assessment

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fill in the Blanks

1) What is "Current?" Simply put, current is the _____ of electric charge, or _____. Just as water flows in a pipe, charged particles flow in a conductor. In electrical terms, "current" describes how many _____ flow through a conductor in a given amount of time. Current is measured in _____.

Responsibilities Regarding and Using Electrical Equipment- The following practices are to be followed by all employees:

- 2) Follows the Company's electrical safety policies and _____ and instructions of responsible Supervisors and the Safety and Health Manager.
- 3) Brings to the attention of the supervisor and/or Health and Safety Branch potential _____ situations such as discrepancies between instruction, procedures, policies and manual, faulty equipment, misapplication of device, etc.
- 4) Electrical equipment known to be malfunctioning must be repaired or _____ before use. The repair must be initiated as soon as possible after the malfunction is noted.
- 5) The _____ is responsible for obtaining necessary tools and safety equipment from the designated storage area, checking it for discrepancies, returning it to storage in good condition and identifying any faulty equipment to his/her supervisor.
- 6) _____ protection is required during any electronic or electrical hardware repair, installation and/or open front operation.
- 7) Do not use extension cords that are damaged or have cuts in the insulation. Only use extension cords that have a _____ wire (i. e., _____ pronged).
- 8) Before any maintenance is performed on equipment all sources of electricity shall be _____ -out and _____ -out.
- 9) Except in emergencies, the person who put it on should only do the _____ of lockout/ tagout devices.

10) A _____ is a fast acting device that monitors the current flow of a circuit. In the event of leakage of 5 milliamps or more, the _____, in a fraction of a second, shuts off the current to the appliance. _____ do not stop shock, but limit the duration.

Check all that apply

11) There are three basic ways which shock occurs:

- ____ A person does not use a grounded extension cord
- ____ A person comes in contact with both wires of an electric circuit
- ____ A person comes in contact with a wire from an electric circuit and the ground source
- ____ A person comes in contact with a ground source and a metal part that is in contact with a wire from an electric circuit

12) Minimizing Electrical Hazards- Electrical hazards, while always present at the Company, can be minimized. There are various ways of protecting from electrical hazards. These include:

- ____ Locking and tagging equipment
- ____ Guarding
- ____ Grounding
- ____ Mechanical devices
- ____ Working under the influence of alcohol
- ____ Personal protective equipment
- ____ Safe work practices
- ____ Safe practices when working with portable equipment
- ____ Proper use of electrical cords and plugs
- ____ Safe practice when working at heights

13) Basic electric cord safety practices include:

- ____ Inspect cords regularly. Look for signs of stretching, insulation damage, and kinking. Don't use if these conditions are evident.
- ____ Keep cords and cables clean and free from kinks. Kinking can damage both the cord's insulation and internal wire.
- ____ Carry a tool by its cord
- ____ When using tools which require a third wire ground use only three wire extension cords with three- pronged, grounding plugs and three hole electric outlets.
- ____ Never cut off the grounding plug from a cord unless it's for a short period only
- ____ Pulling on electric cords can damage the cord insulation and cause electric sparks. Always remove the cord at the plug.

Key-Electrical Safety-Assessment

Fill in the Blanks

1) What is "Current?" Simply put, current is the flow of electric charge, or electrons. Just as water flows in a pipe, charged particles flow in a conductor. In electrical terms, "current" describes how many electrons flow through a conductor in a given amount of time. Current is measured in amps.

Responsibilities Regarding and Using Electrical Equipment- The following practices are to be followed by all employees:

- 8) Follows the Company's electrical safety policies and procedures and instructions of responsible Supervisors and the Safety and Health Manager.
- 9) Brings to the attention of the supervisor and/or Health and Safety Branch potential hazardous situations such as discrepancies between instruction, procedures, policies and manual, faulty equipment, misapplication of device, etc.
- 10) Electrical equipment known to be malfunctioning must be repaired or replaced before use. The repair must be initiated as soon as possible after the malfunction is noted.
- 11) The user is responsible for obtaining necessary tools and safety equipment from the designated storage area, checking it for discrepancies, returning it to storage in good condition and identifying any faulty equipment to his/her supervisor.
- 12) Eye protection is required during any electronic or electrical hardware repair, installation and/or open front operation.
- 13) Do not use extension cords that are damaged or have cuts in the insulation. Only use extension cords that have a ground wire (i. e., three pronged).
- 8) Before any maintenance is performed on equipment all sources of electricity shall be locked-out and tagged-out.
- 9) Except in emergencies, the person who put it on should only do the removal of lockout/ tagout devices.

10) A **GFCI** is a fast acting device that monitors the current flow of a circuit. In the event of leakage of 5 milliamps or more, the **GFCI**, in a fraction of a second, shuts off the current to the appliance. **GFCIs** do not stop shock, but limit the duration.

Check all that apply

11) There are three basic ways which shock occurs:

- A person does not use a grounded extension cord
- **A person comes in contact with both wires of an electric circuit**
- **A person comes in contact with a wire from an electric circuit and the ground source**
- **A person comes in contact with a ground source and a metal part that is in contact with a wire from an electric circuit**

12) Minimizing Electrical Hazards- Electrical hazards, while always present at the Company, can be minimized. There are various ways of protecting from electrical hazards. These include:

- **Locking and tagging equipment**
- **Guarding**
- **Grounding**
- **Mechanical devices**
- Working under the influence of alcohol
- **Personal protective equipment**
- **Safe work practices**
- **Safe practices when working with portable equipment**
- **Proper use of electrical cords and plugs**
- **Safe practice when working at heights**

13) Basic electric cord safety practices include:

- **Inspect cords regularly. Look for signs of stretching, insulation damage, and kinking. Don't use if these conditions are evident.**
- **Keep cords and cables clean and free from kinks. Kinking can damage both the cord's insulation and internal wire.**
- Carry a tool by its cord
- **When using tools which require a third wire ground use only three wire extension cords with three- pronged, grounding plugs and three hole electric outlets.**
- Never cut off the grounding plug from a cord unless it's for a short period only
- **Pulling on electric cords can damage the cord insulation and cause electric sparks. Always remove the cord at the plug.**