

Gloves

Jon works for an electrical company performing maintenance on LV switch gear.



The work is hazardous and standard procedure requires the use of a range of personal protective equipment (PPE) including specialised high voltage gloves.

Jon knows it is essential that all PPE is maintained in good working order and is clean and hygienic. During a daily condition check of his equipment and PPE, Jon notices that his gloves are damaged and may no longer be fit for use.

Company guidelines state that where possible, workers are to have their own dedicated set of PPE rather than share equipment. However if this is not possible, then PPE needs to be properly and regularly laundered and disinfected.

Jon's colleague, Trent, is currently on site and has a pair of specialised high voltage gloves that he is not using and would be happy to lend to Jon. Trent's equipment maintenance log shows the gloves have been disinfected and laundered since they were last used.

Jon and Trent consult their manager and decide that in line with Department of Health advice on COVID-19, additional hygiene steps should be taken. After confirming that manufacturers' guidelines would not be breached, it was decided that in the interim, Jon would wear a pair of disposable gloves under Trent's specialised high voltage gloves. Trent's gloves would be laundered and disinfected when they are returned to him. Jon's manager agrees to supply disposable gloves for him to use and reminds Jon about good hand washing practices and not to touch his face while he has the gloves on. Jon is provided with information about how to put on and remove the disposable gloves to ensure the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is minimised, and provided a special sealed bin to dispose of the used gloves.

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