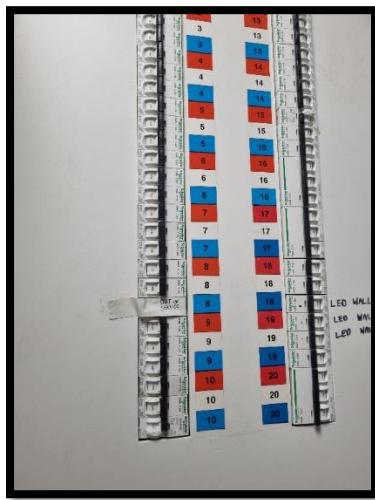


LOTO APPLICATION

A key ACS customer has notified a poor work practice performed by an ACS contractor technician at one of its sites. As can be seen in Fig.1 below, a circuit breaker on the switchboard has been isolated to the OFF position using insulation tape with the words “OUT OF SERVICE” printed in bold. The explanation given by the technician as to why he did not follow correct LOTO procedures as shown in Fig. 2, was that the local equipment circuit breaker was always turned off while the equipment was tested. Clearly this method of isolation does not provide adequate protection to the worker if another person came along and turned the circuit breaker switch to the ON position.



(Fig. 1)

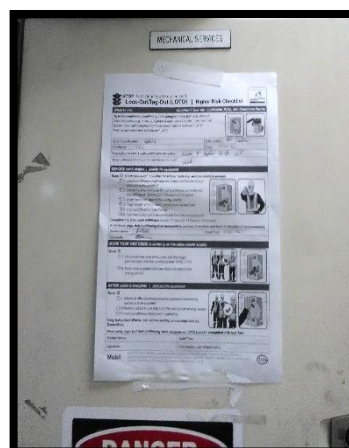


(Fig. 2)

In addition to the unsafe isolation technique used the sole worker did not wear a hard hat and his arms were exposed when opening the board to isolate the breaker. Undoubtedly there was no risk assessment performed as the SWMS definitively gives worker a list of PPE to be worn and how LOTO shall be applied.

Individually each worker has a duty to take reasonable care for their own electrical safety and to not adversely affect the electrical safety of other persons. Workers must comply with reasonable instructions, as far as they are reasonably practicable, and cooperate with reasonable electrical safety policies or procedures that have been notified to workers. This means that if electrical equipment or personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided by the PCBU, the worker must use it, so far as they are reasonably able, in accordance with the information, instruction and training provided about its use.

As the LOTO work is classified as high risk, a LOTO Higher Risk Checklist shall be filled out after LOTO is applied to determine that all the isolation steps have been completed safely and that the worker has peace of mind when working on equipment or machinery. No HRC was completed, furthermore our customer in this case requires the HRC to be clearly posted (see Fig.3) on the switchboard door, this did not happen.



(Fig. 3)

The root cause analysis performed reveals that the worker is not adequately trained to perform the task under the circumstances discussed, the worker involved does not hold a current electrical class licence.

Root Causes:

2 CORRECT WAY TAKES MORE TIME AND/OR REQUIRES MORE EFFORT

- a) Correct way/ adhering to the procedure takes more time or requires more effort

4 IN PAST, DID NOT FOLLOW PROCEDURES OR ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES AND NO INCIDENT OCCURRED

- b) Procedures and/ or work standards such as SWMS not consulted

Recommendations:

- 1) Contractor PCBU to retrain the technician involved; training to include safe application of LOTO, PPE, Hazard Risk Assessment and SWMS. ACS Energy Isolation policy to be discussed and competency test completed. All ACS contractor workers should be made aware of these event happenings, and to reiterate the LOTO application requirements, the ideal forum would be to present safety alert at your next toolbox talk.
- 2) Contractor PCBU to perform an ACS Lets Behave Safely Observation on the technician involved to ensure that the learnings from 1) have been clearly understood and those gaps identified are stewarded to closure. All ACS contractors have recently received observation targets for 2022, highly recommend that these findings are used as part of your planned observations.

Lessons Learnt:

- Do not send technicians to site without being adequately trained or supervised. As a PCBU you may be setting the worker up to fail if the worker is not competent to perform the task safely
- A risk assessment must be carried out to identify the hazards relating to the equipment, the potential for injury, its severity and the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard identified. Assess what is the worst thing that can happen to you, record solution on the ACS Site Specific SWMS
- Introduce a behavioural observation programme to ensure workers are being monitored regularly against the health and safety and quality provisions in the Lets Behave Safely Observation Form
- Higher Risk Checklists to be completed for all ACS high risk tasks includes LOTO

“For your peace of mind LOTO before you start work”