



Electrical safety position/guidance paper 2017-01

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This guidance represents the consensus understanding of the Electrical Safety Task Group of the EFCOG Worker Safety and Health Subgroup

REFERENCE

DOE-STD-1054-93 Guideline to Good Practices for Control and Calibration of Measuring and Test Equipment (M&TE) at DOE Nuclear Facilities, DOE O 414.1D Quality Assurance, 10 CFR 830 Nuclear Safety Management, NFPA 70E -2015 Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace.

QUESTION

When a voltage detector or test instrument is used to verify absence of voltage for lockout/tagout, is it required to be included in a maintenance and test equipment (M&TE) calibration program?

ANSWER

NO.

DOE-STD-1054-93 states: *“M&TE does not include permanently installed plant instrumentation, nor does it include test equipment used for preliminary checks where data obtained is not used to determine acceptability or verify conformance to established criteria.”* Confirming absence of voltage does not dictate a specific threshold for acceptability. NFPA 70E the “Standard for Electrical safety in the Workplace” requires that a qualified person using professional judgement perform operability tests prior to and after verification of absence of voltage to confirm operability.