Category A – Emergency Immediately report to the DB by telephone and remain on site until the DB arrives	
Asset Condition Code: **A19**	**Code Description:** **Surface voltage found on plastic cut-out**

Description

A potential safety issue has been identified with both single and three phase black plastic cut-outs (potentially constructed from phenolic materials), installed by DBs across the UK between 1967 and 1992. Under certain conditions/circumstances the plastic casing can become conductive leading to a risk of electric shock and/or equipment failure.

If as part of your risk assessment of the work area, you identify that the cut-out is constructed of a black plastic material then follow the actions below as required.

If no sustained voltage, is identified on a black plastic cut-out whilst carrying out your work, report as Code C17.

Stage 1 Actions:

- Before the operation of a black plastic cut-out check for sustained surface voltage on the body and fuse carrier of the cut-out;
- You must not use a proximity voltage indicator at any stage of the assessment process;
- You must use an appropriate direct contact voltage measuring device to identify the presence of surface voltage;
- Before reporting to the DB, readings from a single point of contact voltage indicator must be confirmed by a second test using an approved two-pole testing device to confirm the presence of sustained voltage;
- If no sustained voltage is identified, proceed to Stage 2;
- If a sustained voltage is identified, stop work and proceed to Stage 3.
- If you are uncertain on the interpretation of your tests, contact your supervisor for further advice;

Stage 2 Actions:

- With the fuse carrier and any cover plate removed, check for sustained surface voltage on the fixing back-plate between the incoming phase and neutral including any fixing screws;
- Any testing shall be completed using the devices mentioned in Stage 1;
- If no sustained voltage is identified, continue with your work;
- If a sustained voltage is identified, stop work and proceed to Stage 3.

Stage 3 Actions (Reporting to the DB):

- Do not continue to operate the DB equipment until the issue has been resolved by the DB;
- Keep the immediate area clear of obstructions and keep everyone at a safe distance;
- Contact the DB immediately by telephone - report as Code A19;
- Tell the DB what actions you have taken, confirming that a sustained surface voltage has been detected;
- Remain on site until the DB staff arrive;
- Ensure that you have provided all the details to the DB as specified in Section 5 Category A Issues;
- Continue to monitor the issue at a safe distance and inform the DB if the situation deteriorates.

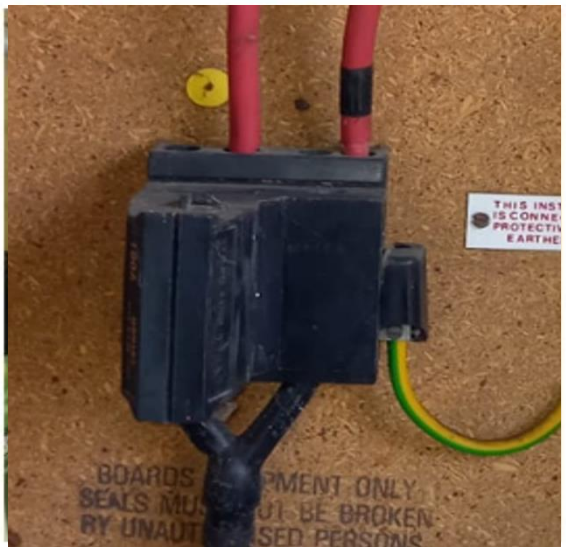
Black plastic cut-out

Cut-outs such as these can be constructed of a phenolic material.









Testing of the cut-out surface with a two-pole voltage testing device to confirm the existence of sustained voltage.



