

BRIEFING 10

Electrical Safety

Electricity can kill and cause serious burns. On site, electrical work and equipment must comply with the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and only be carried out by competent persons.

Site requirements

- Use 110V centre-tapped (CTE) tools and lighting wherever provided.
- Use battery tools or, where mains is essential, an RCD-protected supply.
- Inspect leads, plugs and tools before use; look for a current PAT label.
- Keep cables off the ground and clear of water, traffic and trip routes.

Hazards to control

- Damaged cables, cracked casings and taped-up repairs — take out of use.
- Overhead power lines and buried cables — check services before digging or lifting.
- Water and wet conditions near electrical equipment.

Your responsibilities

- Only competent, authorised electricians carry out electrical work.
- Never bypass or remove guards, RCDs or isolation locks.
- Report and quarantine any faulty or damaged equipment at once.

STOP & ASK Treat all cables and conductors as live until proven dead by a competent person. Do not interfere with the site electrical installation.