

Isolations for Safe Working (ISW) Working Group Draft Minutes

Meeting 03

25 November 2019 at 10:30

Bloomsbury Building, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL

Attendee	Representing
Boz Laird-Clowes [BL]	BEIS
David Brown [DB]	E.ON
Frank Bertie [FB]	NAPIT
Geoff Huckerby [GHu]	AMO
Ian Crawley [IC]	SSEN
Jane Eccleston [JE]	ENWL
Jonathan Elliott [JE]	Electrical Safety First
Paul Abreu [PA]	Energy Networks Association
Richard Brady [RB]	Western Power
Richard Hill [RH]	British Gas
Simon Wilson [SW]	EDF Energy
Secretariat	
Darta Valtere [DV] Chair	ElectraLink
Graham Hall [GH] Secretariat	ElectraLink
Tim Hipperson [TH]	ElectraLink

1. Welcomes and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the 3rd DCUSA Isolations for Safe Working, working group meeting, noting the apologies received from Peter Waymont, Dave Wright, Gillian Groundwater, Warren Lacey and Kevin Little.
- 1.2 The Working Group agreed to act in accordance with the terms set out in the DCUSA “Competition Law Guidance”.

2. Outstanding Actions

- 2.1 The Group approved the minutes of the last meeting on 21 October 2019 as an accurate record.

3. Outstanding Actions

- 3.1 The outstanding actions are included as Attachment 2.

4. RFI - Planned Supply Isolations for Safe Working on Customers’ Electrical Installations in Domestic Premises

Review of Responses

- 4.1 The Chair noted that the Request for Information had been sent out following the previous meeting with a deadline for responses of Friday 22 November. As a result, the responses had not been circulated to the group.
- 4.2 The Chair noted that nine responses had been received to the five questions below (from 3 suppliers, 3 DNOs, 2 iDNOs and 1 other respondent), which are included (anonymised) as Attachment 3.
 - What is your current process for authorising/providing de-energisation of the customer’s installation for electrical works to proceed?
 - Is the provision of de-energisation a chargeable job to the consumer?
 - Does your company offer a service for installing a double-pole isolator switch? If so, is this a chargeable job to the consumer?
 - Can you provide some examples of any improvements that might be made to the current isolations process in order to offer a better level of service to consumers and encourage safer working by their electricians?
 - Do you foresee any barriers to developing a self-funded access Scheme for authorised electricians (MOCOPA like arrangements for isolations with registered individuals)?

Principles and Solutions

4.3 The Group agreed that any potential solution would need to adhere to the following five principles;

1. It must allow parties to meet their obligations
2. It has to be safe
3. There must be clear responsibilities and accountabilities
4. There must be a clearly defined and communicated process
5. It must comply with industry codes and regulations

Solutions

4.4 The Group agreed that the following five potential solutions should be assessed and reviewed in order to either rule them out or take forward;

1. Switch on the meter
2. Isolation Switch
3. Attended Isolations
4. A Scheme for Electricians
5. Do Nothing

4.5 The Group reviewed the pros and cons of all five potential solutions, as highlighted in the following table;

4.6

1. SWITCH ON THE METER

Pros

- All the principles are covered and met
- Eliminates the need for the process

Cons

- Timescales (w. smart meter programme in motion)
- Cost
- Manufacturing of new meters

2. ISOLATION SWITCH

Pros

- One-off visit
- All the principles are covered and met
- Positive customer experience

Cons

- Not always practical
- Additional point of possible failure

- Opportunity to inspect assets and
install smart meter

3. ATTENDED ISOLATION

Pros

- All the principles are covered and met
- Opportunity to inspect assets and~~or~~
install smart meter

Cons

- Would require 2 or more visits
- Poor customer experience
- Logistically complex
- Not a permanent solution

4. SCHEME FOR ELECTRICIANS

Pros

- Encourages safe working
- Good customer service
- Provides an auditable trail
- All the principles are covered and met

Cons

- Governance difficulties
- Electricians not obligated to sign-in
- Still need stand-alone options (2 or 3)
- Cost of liability insurance may be barrier to some, however it could be that 100% buy-in is needed

5. DO NOTHING

Pros

- No change required

Cons

- Several principles are not met
- Could discourage safe working
- Increased outage alert noise to Suppliers & DNOs

4.7 The Group agreed that Options 1 and 5 could be ruled out.

4.8 The Group agreed that Options 2, 3 and 4 could be taken forward, with a review of how they may interact with each other at the next meeting alongside a more detailed look at next steps and potential changes or requirements associated with each option.

4.9 The Chair also noted that at the next meeting a review of the outstanding regulation and legislations questions would be on the agenda.

5. AOB

5.1 The Chair queried whether members had any other business to raise. No items were raised.

6. Next Meeting

- 6.1 The Chair confirmed that the next ISW working group meeting will be held on 13 January 2020 at ElectraLink's offices, Northumberland House, 303-306 High Holborn, London, WC1A 7JZ.