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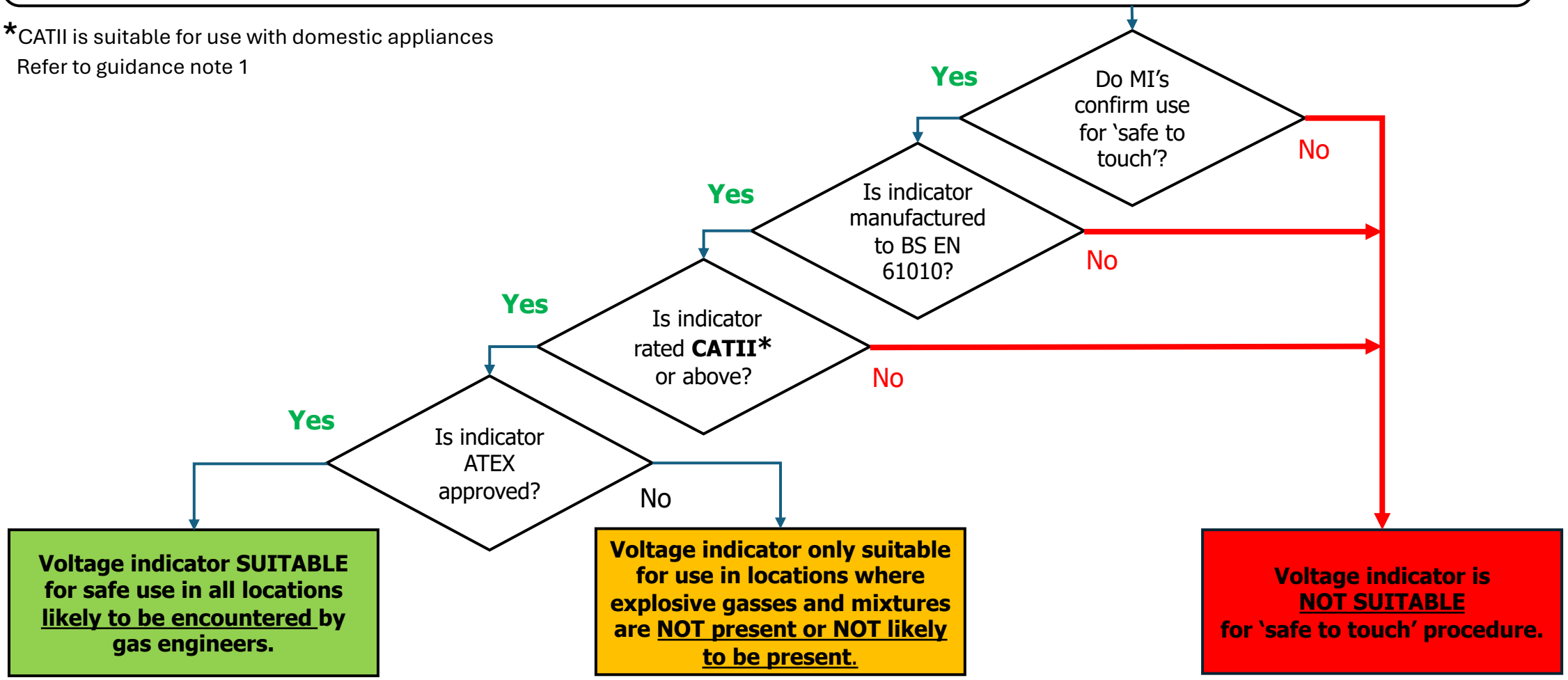
Selecting the correct single-pole 'non-contact' voltage indicator

The manufacturers instructions **must state** that the device is suitable for detecting 'stray electrical voltage' on 'metallic components' such as copper pipework and metal appliance casing etc. The voltage indicator must be in good condition, free from obvious signs of damage, be capable for use for the voltage of electrical supplies that are **likely to be encountered** during your work and have test range starting from 50VAC or lower.

*CATII is suitable for use with domestic appliances
Refer to guidance note 1



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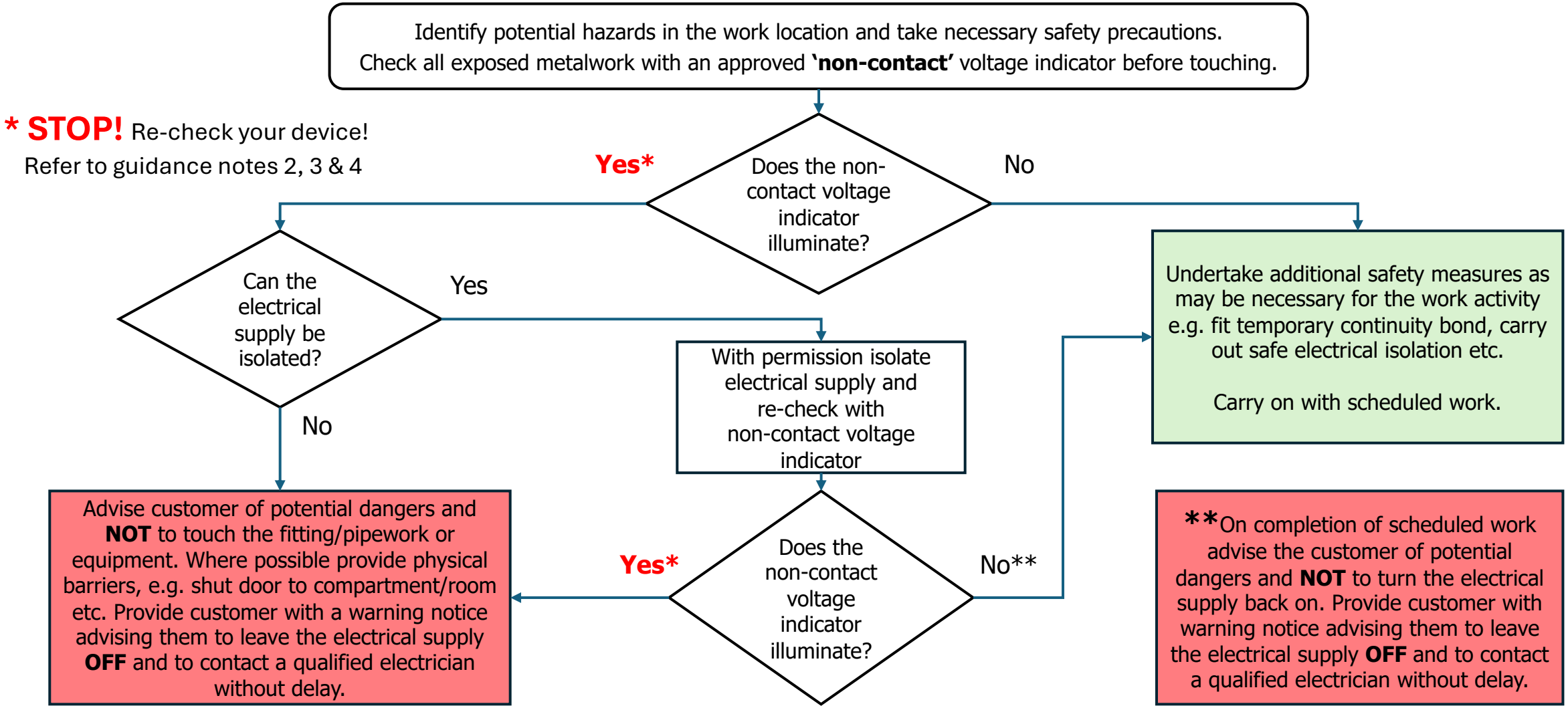
Safe to Touch Procedure 1 (metallic fittings, pipework or equipment without a power supply etc.)



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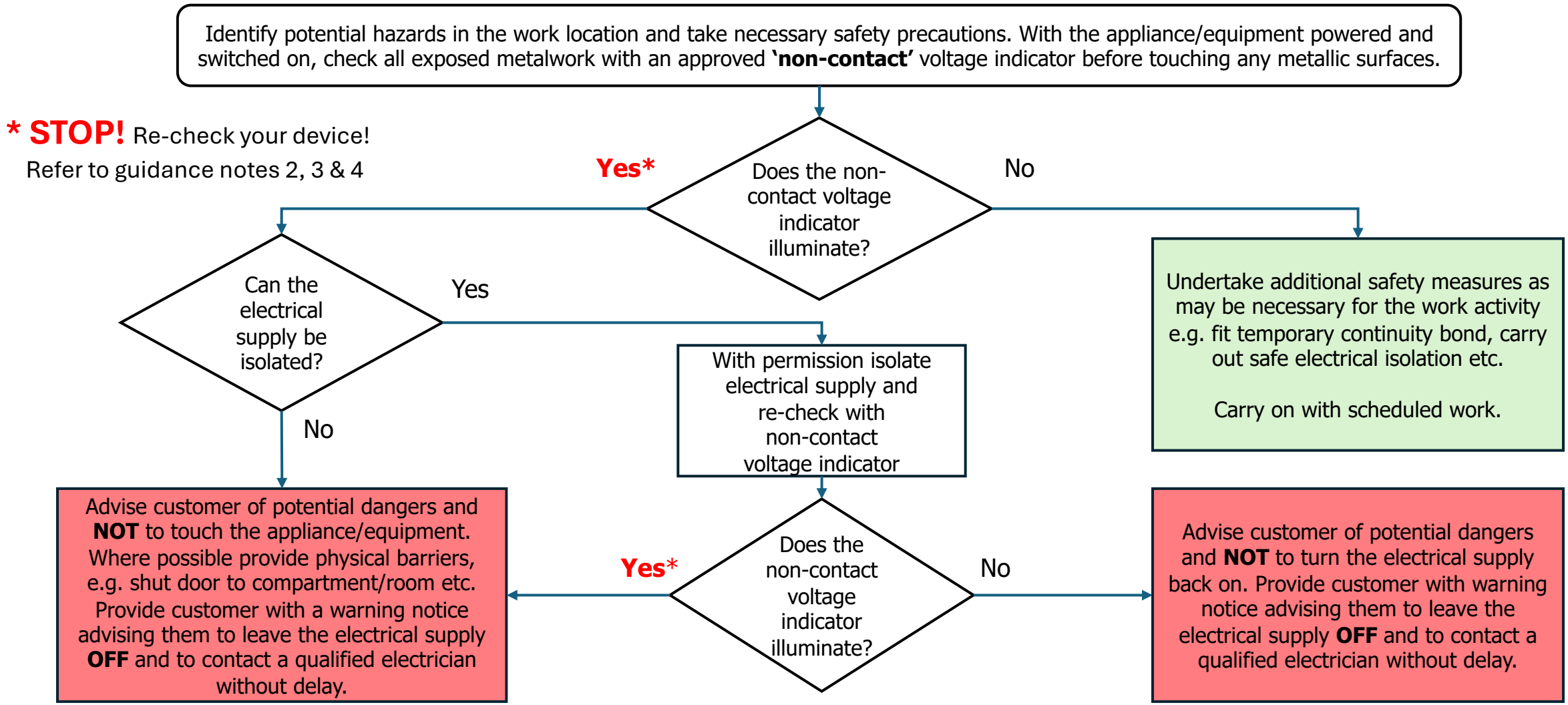
Safe to Touch Procedure 1a (metallic parts of appliances/equipment with a power supply)



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Safe to Touch Procedure
General guidance on the use of 'non-contact' voltage indicators

Note 1. Prior to initial use familiarise yourself with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure the non-contact voltage indicator is to be used for the purpose it was designed for and used in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. On all occasions prior to use, check the correct functioning of the non-contact voltage indicator against a known power source.

Note 2. Whenever the non-contact voltage indicator illuminates proceed with extra care. Re-check the correct functioning of the device against a known power source, re- check you are using the device correctly and re-check for alternative sources of power that may be hidden, as these may trigger your non-contact voltage indicator (see Notes 3 and 4 below).

Note 3. Should the non-contact voltage indicator illuminate when checking a gas piping etc., ensure that this is not an indication from a nearby power supply, buried in plaster etc., by testing the piping at various locations.

Note 4. Should the non-contact voltage indicator illuminate when checking an appliance casing, ensure that it is not an indication from a power supply within the appliance by testing the appliance casing at various locations.

Note 5. When carrying out testing with a non-contact voltage indicator ensure your spare hand is not holding on to or touching any other conductive parts such as a kitchen sink etc. It is safer to keep your other hand close to your body (or in your pocket) to ensure in case of a fault situation it does not inadvertently create a conductive path through your body for electricity to flow to earth.

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Safe to Touch Procedure
General guidance on the use of 'non-contact' voltage indicators

Further guidance freely available online

HSE GS38 provides useful guidance on 'Electrical test equipment for use on low voltage electrical systems. To download a free PDF copy, visit the HSE website.

Electrical test equipment for use on low voltage electrical systems – HSE

Electrical Safety First Best Practice Guide 2 Safe Isolation provides essential guidance on safe electrical isolation procedures.

Best Practice Guides | Electrical Safety First

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Safe to Touch Procedure Disclaimer

This document provides guidance only.

This document does not replace legal duties, statutory requirements, site-specific procedures, approved codes of practice, manufacturer instructions, site-specific risk assessments or professional judgement.

Users remain fully responsible for safe working practices and compliance with all applicable legislation. In the event of any uncertainty, users should seek guidance from a Professional & Competent Person.

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