

Pre-Use Checks on Equipment

Ensure a visual check is always conducted

Pre-use checks must be done by the user before equipment is used to ensure it is not defective and that it is safe to use. A recent visit to a site highlighted the importance of this. When checking, a hot cupboard prior to use, the team noticed that the white cable covering had come loose from the cable at the rear of the hot cupboard and that the internal wires were exposed (Fig.1). The cable was traced back to the plug, which was plugged into a damaged socket box under the bench (Fig.2). That socket box was traced back to the main socket to isolate it, however, the cable had been unsafely hardwired into a plug socket (Fig.3), which was completely unsafe and causing a fire risk and potential electrocution risk. When the team tried to switch off the socket, the isolator switch did not work either. This was reported and the equipment was taken out of use.



Pre-use checks

Pre-use checks should be undertaken by all operatives to ensure work equipment is safe to use. Checks should focus on the condition of the equipment, checking for any damage or deterioration, particularly focussing on parts of the equipment necessary for its safe operation, such as on-off switches, cables, and structural parts. *Pre-use checks do not need to be documented.*

Any defects or issues found should be reported to the responsible persons and the equipment should be removed from use until repaired or replaced.

MORE INFORMATION

Looking for more information:

- ES08 Workplace Inspections
- Site Safety Information Pack – STCSSI15 – Electrical Safety
- Site Safety Information Pack – STCSSI17 – Use of Work Equipment