



Isle of Man

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V01

ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS 2026



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Statutory Document No. 20XX/XXXX

*Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*

ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS 2026

*Approved by Tynwald:**Coming into Operation:**1 August 2028*

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture makes the following Regulations, after consulting such organisations as it considers represent the interests affected by the Regulations¹, under section 15(1), (2), (3)(a) and (b), (4)(a), (5)(b), (6)(b), (8) and (9) and 82(3)(a) of, and paragraphs 1(1)(a) and (c), (2) and (3), 6(2), 9, 11, 12, 14, 15(1), 16 and 21(b) of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974² (of Parliament), as it has effect in the Island³.

1 Title

These Regulations are the Electricity at Work Regulations 2026.

2 Commencement

If approved by Tynwald, these Regulations come into operation on 1 August 2028.

3 Interpretation

SI 1989/635/2(1)

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“**approved**” means approved in writing for the time being by the Department for the purposes of these Regulations or conforming with a specification so approved;

“**circuit conductor**” means any conductor in a system which is intended to carry electric current in normal conditions, or to be energised in normal conditions, and includes a combined neutral and earth conductor, but does not include a conductor provided solely to perform a protective function by connection to earth or other reference point;

¹ As required by section 82(4) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 as it applies to the Island.

² 1974 c.37.

³ SD 2024/0073.

“conductor” means a conductor of electrical energy;

“danger” means risk of injury;

“electrical equipment” includes anything used, intended to be used or installed for use, to generate, provide, transmit, transform, rectify, convert, conduct, distribute, control, store, measure or use electrical energy;

“injury” means death or personal injury from electric shock, electric burn, electrical explosion or arcing, or from fire or explosion initiated by electrical energy, where any such death or injury is associated with the generation, provision, transmission, transformation, rectification, conversion, conduction, distribution, control, storage, measurement or use of electrical energy;

“system” means an electrical system in which all the electrical equipment is, or may be, electrically connected to a common source of electrical energy, and includes such source and such equipment.

4 Persons on whom duties are imposed by these Regulations

SI 1989/635/3(1) and (2)

- (1) Except where otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations, it is the duty of —
 - (a) every employer and self-employed person to comply with the provisions of these Regulations in so far as they relate to matters which are within that person’s control; and
 - (b) every operator, in relation to a quarry within the meaning of regulation 4 of the Quarry (Health and Safety) Regulations 2025⁴, to ensure that all requirements or prohibitions imposed by or under these Regulations are complied with in so far as they relate to the quarry of which that person is the operator and to matters which are within the operator’s control.
- (2) While at work, every employee must —
 - (a) co-operate with his or her employer so far as is necessary to enable any duty placed on that employer by the provisions of these Regulations to be complied with; and
 - (b) comply with the provisions of these Regulations in so far as they relate to matters which are within the employee’s control.

⁴ SD 2025/0132.

PART 2 — GENERAL

5 Systems, work activities and protective equipment

SI 1989/635/4 and drafting

- (1) All systems must be so constructed and at all times maintained so as to prevent danger, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- (2) Every work activity, including operation, use and maintenance of a system and work near a system, must be carried out in such a manner as not to give rise to danger, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- (3) Any equipment provided under these Regulations for the purpose of protecting persons at work on or near electrical equipment must be —
 - (a) suitable for the use for which it is provided;
 - (b) maintained in a condition suitable for that use; and
 - (c) properly used.

6 Strength and capability of electrical equipment

SI 1989/635/5 and drafting

No electrical equipment may be put into use where its strength and capability may be exceeded in such a way as may give rise to danger.

7 Adverse or hazardous environments

SI 1989/635/6 and drafting

Electrical equipment which may reasonably foreseeably be exposed to —

- (a) mechanical damage;
- (b) the effects of the weather, natural hazards, temperature or pressure;
- (c) the effects of wet, dirty, dusty or corrosive conditions; or
- (d) any flammable or explosive substance, including dusts, vapours or gases,

must be of such construction or as necessary protected as to prevent danger arising from such exposure, so far as is reasonably practicable.

8 Insulation, protection and placing of conductors

SI 1989/635/7 and drafting

All conductors in a system which may give rise to danger must either —

- (a) be suitably covered with insulating material and as necessary protected so as to prevent danger, so far as is reasonably practicable; or

- (b) have such precautions taken in respect of them (including, where appropriate, their being suitably placed) as will prevent danger, so far as is reasonably practicable.

9 Earthing or other suitable precautions

SI 1989/635/8 and drafting

- (1) Precautions must be taken, either by earthing or by other suitable means, to prevent danger arising when any conductor (other than a circuit conductor) which may reasonably foreseeably become charged as a result of either the use of a system, or a fault in a system, becomes so charged.
- (2) For the purposes of ensuring compliance with this regulation, a conductor is to be regarded as earthed when it is connected to the general mass of earth by conductors of sufficient strength and current-carrying capability to discharge electrical energy to earth.

10 Integrity of referenced conductors

SI 1989/635/9 and drafting

If a circuit conductor is connected to earth or to any other reference point, nothing which might reasonably be expected to give rise to danger by breaking the electrical continuity or introducing high impedance may be placed in that conductor unless suitable precautions are taken to prevent that danger.

11 Connections

SI 1989/635/10 and drafting

Where necessary to prevent danger, every joint and connection in a system must be mechanically and electrically suitable for use.

12 Means for protecting from excess of current

SI 1989/635/8 and drafting

Efficient means, suitably located, must be provided for protecting from excess of current every part of a system so far as may be necessary to prevent danger.

13 Means for cutting off the supply and for isolation

SI 1989/635/12 and drafting

- (1) If necessary to prevent danger, suitable means (including, where appropriate, methods of identifying circuits) must be available for –
 - (a) cutting off the supply of electrical energy to any electrical equipment; and
 - (b) the isolation of any electrical equipment.

Here “isolation” means the disconnection and separation of the electrical equipment from every source of electrical energy in such a way that this disconnection and separation is secure.

- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to electrical equipment which is itself a source of electrical energy but, in such a case as is necessary, precautions must be taken to prevent danger, so far as is reasonably practicable.

14 Precautions for work on equipment made dead

SI 1989/635/13 and drafting

Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent electrical equipment, which has been made dead in order to prevent danger while work is carried out on or near that equipment, from becoming electrically charged during that work if danger may arise from it becoming so charged.

15 Work on or near live conductors

SI 1989/635/14 and drafting

No person may be engaged in any work activity on or so near any live conductor (other than one suitably covered with insulating material so as to prevent danger) that danger may arise unless —

- (a) it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for it to be dead; and
- (b) it is reasonable in all the circumstances for him to be at work on or near it while it is live; and
- (c) suitable precautions (including where necessary the provision of suitable protective equipment) are taken to prevent injury.

16 Working space, access and lighting

SI 1989/635/15 and drafting

For the purposes of enabling injury to be prevented, adequate working space, adequate means of access, and adequate lighting must be provided at all electrical equipment on which, or near which, work is being done in circumstances which may give rise to danger.

17 Persons to be competent to prevent danger and injury

SI 1989/635/16 and drafting

A person must not be engaged in any work activity where technical knowledge or experience is necessary to prevent danger or, where appropriate, injury, unless he or she possesses such knowledge or experience, or is under such degree of supervision as may be appropriate having regard to the nature of the work.

PART 3 – MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

18 Defence

SI 1989/635/29 and drafting

In any proceedings for an offence consisting of a contravention of regulations 5(4), 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17, it is a defence for any person to prove that the person took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of that offence.

19 Exemption certificates

SI 1989/635/30 and drafting

(1) The Department may, by a certificate in writing, exempt —

- (a) any person;
- (b) any premises;
- (c) any electrical equipment;
- (d) any electrical system;
- (e) any electrical process;
- (f) any activity,

or any class of the above, from any requirement or prohibition imposed by these Regulations and any such exemption may be granted subject to conditions and to a limit of time and may be revoked by a certificate in writing at any time.

(2) But the Department must not grant any such exemption unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, and in particular to —

- (a) the conditions, if any, which it proposes to attach to the exemption; and
- (b) any other requirements imposed by or under any enactment which apply to the case,

it is satisfied that the health and safety of persons who are likely to be affected by the exemption will not be prejudiced in consequence of it.

20 Application to the territorial sea

SI 1989/635/31 and drafting

These Regulations shall apply —

- (a) in the Island, excluding the territorial sea; and
- (b) in the territorial sea as section 1 to 53 and 80 to 82 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (of Parliament) apply by virtue of the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application to the Territorial Sea) Order 2026⁵.

⁵ SD 2026/xxxx.

21 Disapplication of duties

SI 1989/635/32

The duties imposed by these Regulations do not extend to —

- (a) the master or crew of a sea-going ship or to the employer of such persons, in relation to the normal ship-board activities of a ship's crew under the direction of the master; or
- (b) any person, in relation to any aircraft or hovercraft which is moving under its own power.

MADE**CLARE BARBER***Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture*

*EXPLANATORY NOTE**(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations impose health and safety requirements with respect to electricity at work.

The Regulations impose duties upon employers, self-employed persons, employees, and managers of quarries and employees (regulation 4). The duties imposed by the Regulations do not, however, extend to the master or crew of a sea-going ship or to their employer in relation to the normal ship-board activities of a ship's crew under the direction of the master (regulation 21(a)); nor do those duties extend to any person in relation to any aircraft or hovercraft which is moving under its own power (regulation 21(b)).

The Regulations —

- (a) impose requirements about the construction and maintenance of electrical systems (regulation 5(1));
- (b) impose requirements about the carrying out of work activities (including the operation, use and maintenance of electrical systems and work near electrical systems) (regulation 5(2));
- (c) impose requirements about the provision of protective equipment (regulation 5(1));
- (d) impose requirements about the putting into use of electrical equipment (regulation 6);
- (e) impose requirements about the construction and protection of electrical equipment which may reasonably foreseeably be exposed to adverse or hazardous environments (regulation 7);
- (f) impose requirements about the insulation and protection of, and the taking of precautions in respect of, conductors (regulation 8);
- (g) impose requirements about the taking of precautions to prevent danger in respect of certain conductors (regulation 9);
- (h) impose restrictions about the placing of anything which might give rise to danger in any circuit conductor which is connected to earth or to any other reference point (regulation 10);
- (i) impose requirements about mechanical and electrical suitability for use of joints and connections in electrical systems (regulation 11);
- (j) impose requirements about the protection from excess currents of electrical systems (regulation 12);
- (k) impose requirements about the availability of suitable means for cutting off the supply of electrical energy to, and the isolation of, electrical equipment which is not itself a source of electrical energy (regulation 13(1)) and (where necessary) the taking of such

other precautions as will, so far as reasonably practicable, prevent danger in respect of electrical equipment which is itself a source of electrical energy (regulation 13(2));

- (l) impose requirements about the taking of such precautions in respect of electrical equipment which has been made dead in order to prevent danger while work is carried on or near it as will prevent that equipment from becoming electrically charged (regulation 14);
- (m) impose restrictions on persons being engaged in work activities on or near certain live conductors (regulation 15);
- (n) impose requirements about the provision of adequate working space, adequate lighting and adequate means of access at specified electrical equipment (regulation 16); and
- (o) impose restrictions about who may be engaged in work activities where technical knowledge or experience is necessary to prevent danger or injury (regulation 17).

The Regulations provide for the issue of certificates of exemption by the Department (regulation 18). The Regulations also provide that they apply to Island's territorial sea to the extent specified in regulation 20.