


What prohibits any person from accessing live parts?

Inquiries from various industries, such as manufacturers, often relate to whether their non-licensed employees are able to access electrical switchboards or control panels, which may contain live parts.

AS/NZS 3000:2007 – Wiring Rules states as follows:

 **Clause 1.4.14 – Authorized person**

The person in charge of the premises, or the licensed electrical contractor or electrician or other person appointed or selected by the person in charge of the premises to perform certain duties on the premises.

 **Clause 2.9.3.1 – Access to live parts**

Live parts shall be arranged so that basic protection is provided by enclosures, in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.5.4.

Exception: Live parts may be exposed in a non- domestic electrical installation provided that -

- 1. the live parts are arranged so that basic protection is provided by barriers in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.5.4.4; or*
- 2. the switchboard is installed in an area that is accessible only to authorized persons and the means of access to such areas is provided with facilities for locking.*

In situations where the removal of covers and the like exposes live parts such covers shall be identified in accordance with AS/NZS 3439.

Exception: This requirement does not apply to domestic switchboards.

In effect, a person need not necessarily be licensed as an electrical worker to reset an overload device, circuit breaker or switch which may be adjacent to live parts within an electrical switchboard.

However, it must be stressed that persons (including the person in charge of the premises) so authorized, must be fully aware of the hazards relating to inadvertent contact to exposed live parts.

Occupational Health and Safety legislation requires an employer to provide training to ensure a person engaged in a workplace activity is competent to perform the task safely.

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