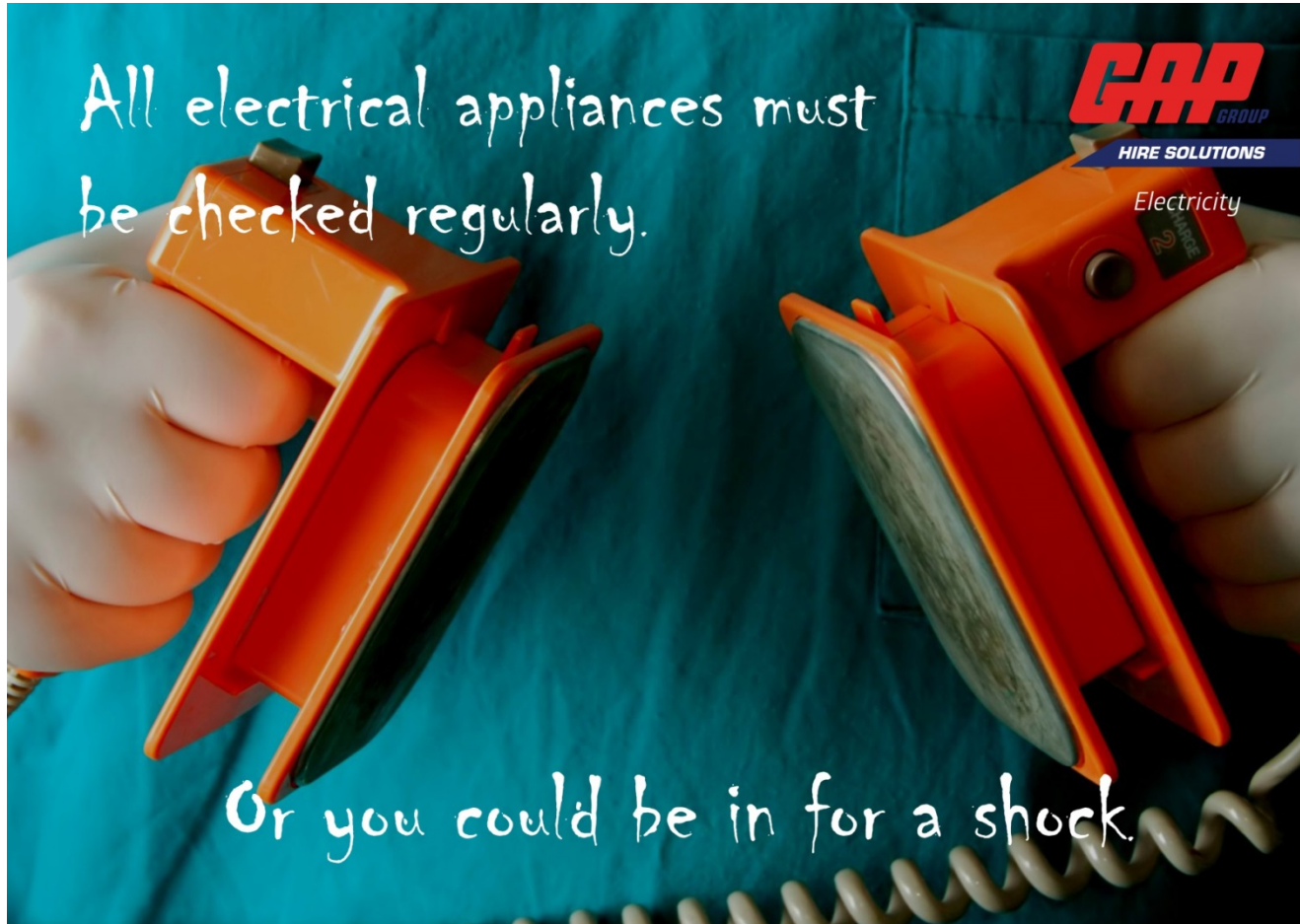


GAP Tool Box Talk: Electricity



Purpose

The purpose of this Tool Box Talk is to provide you with:

- Information on the Electricity at Work Regulations
- Information on the hazards
- Controls and precautions which should be taken when working with electricity



Examples of electrical equipment

- Drills
- Screwdrivers
- Circular Saws
- Jigsaws
- Orbital Sanders
- Bench Saws
- Breakers
- Grinders



Legal requirements

- The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 applies to all situations involving electricity and aim to impose duties to limit the risks involved in using electricity at work

The main points of the regulations are:

- All systems shall be of such construction so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practical, any risk of injury
- Workers should be provided with appropriate training, information and supervision
- Appropriate PPE is provided for the work force as outlined in the corresponding risk assessment

Hazards

Electric shock is a major hazard, the severity of the shock will depend on the level of electric current and the duration of contact

Some hazards on sites that we should be aware of:

- Avoid standing on wet or damp surfaces when using electrical equipment
- Check plans before digging or drilling – use a cable locating device
- Assume all cables are live, unless you have been informed that they are dead by a competent person
- Never use power tools if damaged
- Always treat overhead lines as live
- Do not use damaged cables and plugs

The correct use of portable electrical tools

- Only use equipment that you have been trained or instructed on how to use it
- Before use, check the tool is an approved type and suitable for work being carried out, if in doubt ask a supervisor
- Check the condition of the power tool for damage prior to starting work
- Check electrical cables and plugs for damage on a daily basis
- Check that the electrical tool has been tested by a competent person
- When a fuse blows or circuit breaker trips always contact someone authorised to check the fault
- Switch off or disconnect power supply before cleaning or making adjustments
- Extension cables should be routed so as not to cause tripping or similar hazards

DO:

- Keep all electrical equipment clean, dry and in good working order
- Always disconnect power tools when not in use
- Always carry out daily checks on all electrical equipment
- Always ensure that the electrical tool has been tested and test is current



DON'T

- Use portable equipment over 110V on site work
- Pull equipment by the cable - the connections may work loose and increase the electrical hazard
- Don't attempt to repair tools unless authorised and qualified to do so
- Don't use damaged power tools
- Don't use blunt or damaged 'bits' or accessories
- Don't stretch cables or trail them across passageways so causing a tripping hazard



Summary

- All operatives must ensure they carry out daily checks
- Ensure that equipment has been inspected and tested
- Report any damages to your supervisor
- Never use damaged equipment
- Check cables for cuts/damage
- Disconnect power supplies when not in use
- Ensure that you have had the appropriate training before use

