

HSEM ALERT

Electrical Equipment in a Hostile Environment

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff

Incident Details

Whilst attempting to turn on a commercial grade coffee machine, a staff member received an electric shock in a hostile environment.

A hostile environment is a workplace where electrical equipment or flexible supply cord may, in its normal use be subject to conditions that are likely to result in damage e.g. Laboratories, Workshops, and Kitchens etc.

Investigation Findings

- Testing and Tagging had not be carried out as per [Curtin's Electrical Safety Procedures](#).
- The incident occurred as a direct result of a long term water leak adjacent to the heating element on the equipment.
- Introduction of an in-service inspection and testing program would have identified the water leak and would have prevented the incident.

Recommendations

- All electrical appliances in hostile environments should be tested and tagged in accordance with [Curtin's Electrical Safety Procedures](#).





- The person in control of the work area owns the responsibilities in relation to inspection, maintenance and testing of leased or loaned equipment.

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Properties, Facilities and Development Infrastructure Manager Electrical on 9266 2020 or email scc@curtin.edu.au.

References

[Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 \(WA\)](#)

[Curtin Electrical Safety Procedures](#)

AS/NZS 3760:2010 In service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment

Date of Issue

12/12/2018