CONTINUITY OF PROTECTIVE CONDUCTORS: WHAT YOU ARE TESTING

WHY IS CONTINUITY ALWAYS THE FIRST TEST?

A **protective conductor** is, in practice, any green-and-yellow conductor in the installation: the circuit protective conductors (CPCs), the main protective bonding and any supplementary bonding. This test proves each one is **continuous** — an unbroken path of copper, so fault current has somewhere to go.

It is the **first test** in the sequence, on an initial verification and on a periodic where a full test is being done. Each test proves something the next one depends on: you can't trust an insulation reading, or a Z_s, on a circuit you haven't proved has a CPC.

There are two methods. This practical is **test method 1**, $R_1 + R_2$, for **radial circuits**.

> **Why method 1 is the one to reach for.**
> As well as proving the CPC, it largely proves the **polarity** of the circuit, and it lets you prove the **switches** work. Method 2 proves the CPC, but tells you nothing about either.

Guidance Note 3 · 2.6.5 · continuity of protective conductors

Guidance Note 3 · Figure 2.12 · p.57 · the sequence of tests

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