PROVED DEAD IS NOT FINISHED: THE OTHER SIX STEPS

WHY A VOLT STICK AS WELL AS YOUR AVI?

Everything up to here is **one step** of the eight. The installation being dead is what lets you do the rest safely; it is not the end of the check.

#	WHAT YOU DO	WHAT YOU EXPECT
3	Clamp the earthing conductor and main bonding **again**, now it is off	Current dropped to zero, or to an extremely small level
4	**Volt stick** at the MET, along the earthing conductor, along each main bonding conductor, and at the extraneous-conductive-parts	No voltage indicated
5	**Disconnect** the main protective bonding conductors	Nothing unusual
6	Volt stick **again**, same places	No voltage indicated
7	**Reconnect** the main protective bonding conductors	Nothing unusual
8	On a TN system, check the **external earth fault loop impedance** during your inspection and testing	A sensible Z_e — see below

✋ **Why a volt stick and not your AVI.** While diverted current still has somewhere else to go, a two-pole voltage indicator will not see it. That is not a criticism of your tester — it is the physics. The book is explicit that a volt stick should be used **as well**. Not instead: as well.

Step 7 has a reason, and it is examinable.
You put the bonding back **so that insulation resistance testing can be carried out** — the installation has to be connected to earth for that test. It is not tidiness. It is the next test on the sequence needing it.

STEP 8 — AND A NUMBER YOU HAVE ALREADY MET

As a rule of thumb, Z_e up to about **0.35 Ω** on TN-C-S and **0.80 Ω** on TN-S. A reading that is high is the signal.

✋ **Read that as a rule of thumb, not a pass mark.** You will have met 0.35 and 0.80 elsewhere as *expected maximum* values. Here the book says plainly that **slightly higher readings may occasionally be experienced**, and that comparing against **previous readings** tells you more than either figure. A 0.38 Ω TN-C-S reading is a reason to look harder, not a verdict.

And the honest framing.

The book says there is **no simple test** that shows diverted neutral current, and that these eight steps are **an example of an approach for dwellings** — not a universal procedure. Know them as the shape of the check, and know why each one is there.

Guidance Note 3 · Appendix D · the eight steps

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