PROVING DEAD: THE THREE TESTS, AND THE RHYTHM

WHICH CONDUCTOR DOES THE FIRST PROBE GO ON?

Put the probe on the conductor that should be at zero volts first — the neutral or the earth — and bring the second probe onto what would be live if it had not been isolated. No regulation says so. The reason is in your hand: do it the other way round and the free end of your lead is sitting on a line conductor while you are still reaching with it. Work from the **least dangerous conductor first**. The CPC is the safest, so that is where you start, and you move **one probe at a time**.

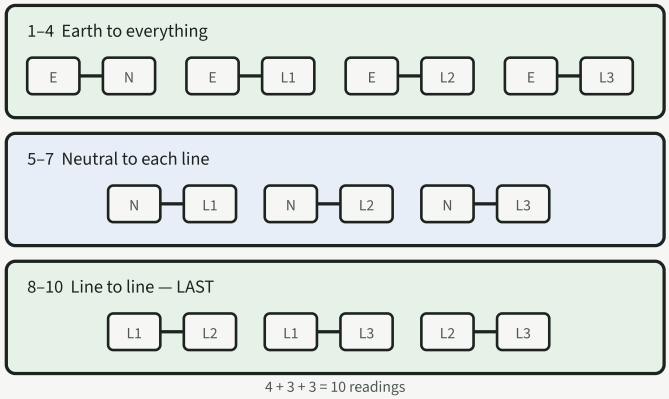
#	SINGLE PHASE — THREE TESTS
1	CPC — Neutral
2	CPC — Line
3	Line — Neutral

> **Move one hand at a time. Never cross your arms over.**
> Start on the safest combination and work along. Get a rhythm going and it is quicker — and you are not reaching across live terminals to do it.

Three phase is the same idea, ten readings: four to earth, three to neutral, three between lines. Start on earth, the safest conductor, and the **line-to-line tests come last**, because they are the most dangerous. Work up the list, not down it.

GROUP	THREE PHASE — TEN TESTS
1–4	Earth to Neutral · Earth to L1 · Earth to L2 · Earth to L3
5–7	Neutral to L1 · Neutral to L2 · Neutral to L3
8–10	L1 to L2 · L1 to L3 · L2 to L3 — **last**

Lead colour does not matter on safe isolation or on dead testing. On live testing you line your colours up with the conductors. On phase rotation the order genuinely matters.



4 + 3 + 3 = 10 readings

Ten is easy to lose count of, so count it in groups: four off the earth, three off the neutral, then three between lines. The order is not arbitrary — you work out from the safest conductor, which is why the line-to-line tests are last. One probe moves at a time, and your arms never cross.

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