SAFE ISOLATION, STEP BY STEP

CAN YOU TRUST THE LABELS ON THE BOARD?

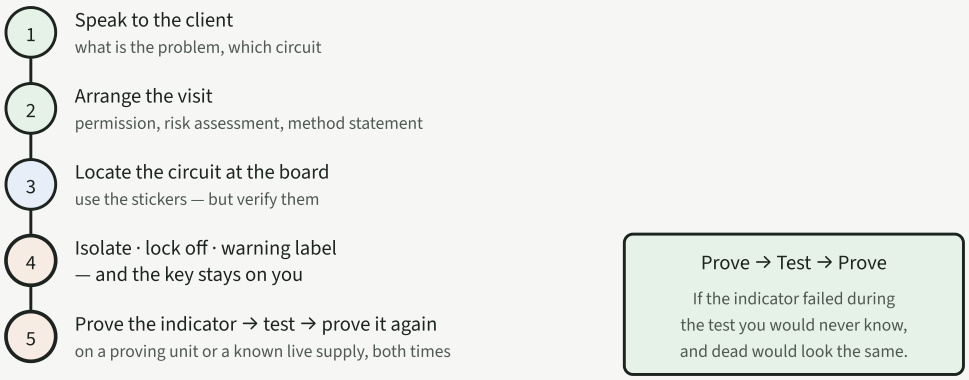
The procedure is laid out most clearly in **Electricians Guide to the Building Regulations** · 7.5.

1. **Speak to the client first.** What is the problem, which circuit, what is happening. Arrange the visit.
2. **Permission, and paperwork.** Risk assessment, method statement, programme of works if you are on a big site.
3. **Go to the board and locate the circuit.** Use the stickers — but verify them.
4. **Isolate** the circuit.
5. **Lock off**, fit a **warning label**, and keep the key on you.
6. **Prove your AVI works** — on a known live supply or a proving unit.
7. **Test.** Three tests on single phase, ten on three phase.
8. **Prove the AVI again.**
9. **Barriers** if you are in a public area — before or after, but they go up.
10. Only then is it safe to work.

✋ **Labels lie.** A lighting circuit is not always where the label says it is. Read the labels, then prove which breaker it actually is.

Put your name and number on the lock.
On a big site somebody may genuinely need to reach the person who fitted it.

✋ **Isolation is not simply operating a device.** It must be locked off, and it must carry warning signs. In a public area — an office that cannot be fully isolated because of computer systems, say — you also need **barriers**, for your safety and for theirs. That is basic protection for both of you.



The lock-off and the label are not paperwork. Somebody else switching that circuit back on while you are working is exactly what they prevent.

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