THE ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS TO KNOW BY NUMBER

WHICH REGULATION IS YOUR DEFENCE IN COURT?

Worth a one-line summary of each in your own notes. These are the ones that bear on inspection and testing:

REG	WHAT IT COVERS
5	**Strength and capability** of electrical equipment — nothing put into use where its strength and capability may be exceeded so as to give rise to danger
12	**Means for cutting off the supply and for isolation**
13	**Working on equipment made dead**
14	**Working live** — three conditions, and you must meet **all three**
29	**Defence** — the only regulation that can be used as a defence in court

REGULATION 5 IN PRACTICE — WHAT WOULD BREACH IT

An undersized cable

An oversized protective device — a 32 A breaker on a 16 A immersion circuit, which will not protect the cable against overload (and may not meet the B32 maximum Z_s)

Flexible conduit used where the design specified **rigid metallic** conduit

Regulation 12 is the duty; your lock-off kit is how you meet it.
It requires suitable means of cutting off the supply and of isolation. Your **approved voltage indicator** and its leads are a separate matter: GS38 is HSE guidance on test equipment, not part of Regulation 12.

✋ **Regulation 14: all three conditions, or you do not work live.** If you cannot meet every one of the three, it is not permitted. Some installations genuinely require live work — and then every precaution has to be taken.

Regulation 29 is the one that could save you.
It is a defence to prove you **took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence**. In practice that means things like torque settings: consumer units now come with them, and if a fire follows and you cannot show you tightened to the manufacturer's figure, you may be held liable. The same applies to inspection — if you signed it off and the mechanical protection was missing, **you** are at fault, not the installer.

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