THE TEST FINGER, IP4X AND PPE FOR LIVE TESTING

WHAT RATING DOES THE TOP OF A CONSUMER UNIT NEED?

THE TEST FINGER AND IP4X

A short detour, because the test finger belongs with IP ratings and the question comes back round. The one to know:

> `The top of an enclosure: IP4X — not IP2X`

IP4X on the top of a consumer unit keeps out solid objects of **1 mm** and larger — a wire or a small tool should not be able to get in.

✋ **IP4X is not a dust rating.** Dust protection is **IP5X** (dust-protected) and **IP6X** (dust-tight). IP4X is about wires and small objects.

It is not in Guidance Note 3.
The test finger is not in this book — GN3's index is poor compared with the others. Look for it with the IP ratings instead.

PPE FOR LIVE TESTING

Worth saying plainly: thin latex gloves are not good enough for live testing on site.

WHERE	MINIMUM
Any live testing	**Gloves**
Large boards, industrial	Gloves plus **glasses or a face shield** — a fault can arc and catch you in the face
Specific high-risk work	**Arc flash PPE**

✋ **Take the jewellery off.** A gold chain or a watch can cause an arc. Gold is one of the best conductors there is, and metal on you makes you a better path to earth than you want to be.

It is law, not advice.
Personal Protective Equipment at Work sits under the Health and Safety at Work Act, alongside things like Noise at Work.

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