

Safety and health alert

02/00 Servicing post mix drink dispenser or similar type machines

Incident

A number of incidents have been identified where service personnel have received fatal or serious electrical shocks while servicing post mix drink dispensers or similar type machines.

- An electrical worker was servicing a small flake ice machine when he received a fatal electrical shock.
- A self-employed contractor received a fatal electrical shock as he was preparing to disconnect a faulty post mix drink dispenser at a retail food outlet.
- A self-employed contractor received a serious electrical shock and burns to his left hand when installing and commissioning a refurbished post mix drink dispenser at a retail food outlet.

Factors

Working on live electrical equipment.

Recommendations

1. Owners of plant need to ensure that manufacturer's installation criteria are met and that plant is installed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards.
2. Isolation switches shall be provided such that persons can easily reach them without being exposed to a risk of electric shock.
3. When a fuse failure occurs, steps shall be taken to identify the cause of the failure and the necessary rectifications made. It is not acceptable to replace a fuse without first having a qualified person determine the cause of failure.
4. Should a person experience an electric shock, adequate steps shall be taken to isolate the area until qualified persons are able to determine and rectify the fault.
5. All service personnel shall be provided with portable residual current devices and utilise such devices when servicing post mix drink dispensers or similar type machines.
6. Electrical equipment of this type shall be subject to a risk assessment in accordance with regulation 3.1. Where an assessment under regulation 3.1 indicates a person using the equipment may receive an electric shock, the use of an RCD shall be considered as a means of reducing the risk. The presence of moisture or poor maintenance will increase the risk associated with the use of this type of electrical equipment.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

