

3 Phase Electricity Safety Guidance  
(HGH-SG-004)

**It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using 3-phase electricity.**  
The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.



1. Electricity is hazardous and always be used with great care.
2. Water and electricity make a very hazardous combination. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.
3. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
4. This equipment must only be connected or disconnected by a competent electrician.
5. Particular items of equipment or environments may require a higher level of personal protective equipment.
6. Electrical equipment must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. Electrical equipment is designed for operation by an able-bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

### Before Starting Work...

#### Work Area

1. Do not use electrical equipment where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is close by or could cause distraction.
3. Protect other people from any noise and dust the work may produce. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area. You must prevent unauthorised access.
4. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.

#### Operators

1. You may need to wear PPE appropriate to the task you will be performing.
2. Anyone who is working close by will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.



### 3 Phase Equipment

1. Check the equipment, cables, plugs and sockets. If anything is found damaged, do not use it – contact the hire company.
2. Make a visual check regularly that the equipment is in good working order and is working correctly.
3. Remember only a competent electrician is authorised to work on 3 phase equipment.
4. Check how any on/off switches operate – before you switch it on, you must know how to stop it.

### Electrical Safety

1. Only a competent electrician is authorized to connect any 3-phase supply, this includes plugs and sockets.
2. If you suspect there is a fault, contact the competent electrician immediately.
3. If you think there may be danger of electric shock to some person, you should switch the isolator to the OFF position.

### Warning

1. Isolating the power could itself cause danger to others. If this is the case that the competent electrician and other persons in the authority will have formulated a procedure which must be followed.

### Checks

1. Regular maintenance checks should be made of all electrical equipment. These should include: - Visual checks by the user each time the equipment is used.

Formal visual check by a trained person on a regular basis.

Combined inspection and testing by a trained person at suitable intervals depending on the risk.

### Using Electrical Equipment

1. Only a competent electrician is authorised to connect or disconnect a 3-phase supply.
2. If it is normal practice to isolate the equipment at the end of the work or other set time, do so.
3. If you suspect a fault or potential issue, do not hesitate to take the appropriate action. This action may be part of a pre-arranged emergency procedure or may just require you to isolate the equipment.
4. If your equipment does not work properly, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR IT.

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