

MYTHS AND ILLUSIONS NO. 7

Why do we mislead workers about the dangers they face?

The known threat to life on LV networks is fault currents of up to 37 kA.**

Currently, the safety equipment used to protect workers from this threat to life is only suitable for 6 kA. The cheque is waiting for anybody who can prove that safety equipment rated for 6kA will protect workers from a 37kA hazard.

**Electricity Supply Authority figures.

<https://vimeo.com/282296797>

Safety equipment that addresses **a fraction** of a hazard cannot protect workers. Why address a fraction of a hazard? How is the balance of the hazard addressed?

Worker protection is achieved if the actual hazard is addressed e.g. the fault current of the network. (IS EN 61230:2008). The fault current of a network is the fault current of the transformer that feeds that network which is as follows:

Transformer Size	200KVA	400KVA	630KVA	1MVA
Fault Current	7.2kA	14.4kA	22.7kA	36kA

Note

Employers who provide safety equipment which is not fit for purpose, risk prosecution under Regulation 82 (2) of S.I. No. 299 of 2007.

€10,000 to anybody or (their nominated charity) who can show that:

1. Safety procedures in Ireland comply with International Safety Standard IS EN 61230: 1996/2008
- 2 A protective device rated for 6kA will protect you from a 36kA hazard for 1 sec.

Date of closure 19th August [Terms and conditions](#)