



Switching and Critical Risks

Harvey O'Sullivan.
Chairman of EEA Safety Standards and Procedures
Group (SSPG).

Purpose of Discussion

- SSPG has been considering whether there are justifiable levels of concern with regard to switching practices
 - Mostly anecdotal evidence
 - Critical risks
 - Less live work = more switching
 - Range of equipment ages and style

Risks

- Operating order/switching sequence errors
- Inaccurate drawings
- Inadequate/incorrect equipment labelling
- Expediency/behavioural drift
- Arc flash exposure
- Casual communications
- Dealing with alterations
- Implications for LV work



SM-EI

- SM-EI does not address switching other than indirectly, e.g.
 - Isolate before earth
 - Close earth switch (if fitted) as first earth
- Intent is to include key switching requirements in next SM-EI
- First strategy is to prepare a Guide



Proposed Guide

- Scope
 - Writing and approving operating orders
 - Communications protocols
- Sample solutions

Thank you
Discussion