THE “4P” APPROACH

The management of tasks, where the arc flash hazard is present, needs to be determined by risk assessment. The risk assessment approach with the 4 steps of Predict, Prevent, Protect and Publish as defined in the DuPont™ Arc-Guide is a recommended method to develop safe work practices for the protection of people, where this hazard exists.

PREDICT - the severity of the thermal effect of an arc flash by the amount of “incident energy” that a worker, standing at a given distance away from the arc, could receive.

PREVENT - design out, eliminate or remove the hazard at its source.

PROTECT - where the risk cannot be controlled by prevention or where there is a residual risk of injury then it may be necessary to consider personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent injury to the worker.

PUBLISH - communicate and document results of site arc flash to those who are at risk.

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Electric arc is one of the deadliest and least understood hazards of electricity, and is prevalent in most industrial situations. The outcome of an arc flash can be disastrous: survivors of such injuries may require extensive treatment and rehabilitation. The cost of these injuries can be extreme, physically, emotionally and financially.

An example of an electrical arc accident generated costs in the order of €430,000. Considering medical treatment for the victim of the accident, lost time from work, damage to equipment and legal costs and compensation. (Source: BG ETEM*)

Whilst EU Directive 89/391/EEC requires business to perform risk assessments for all work activities, the outcome of an electric arc is often overlooked because most people are unsure how to assess and manage this hazard effectively.

The DuPont™ Arc-Guide...

To help companies which need to comply with EU directives on risk assessment, better assess the arc flash hazards (by the use of simple calculators) and provide them with the knowledge on how to both reduce the severity and consequences of an arc flash, DuPont has designed the DuPont™ Arc-Guide.

This comprehensive web-based service offering is aimed at anyone whose responsibility involves the protection of workers from the arc flash hazard: electrical engineers, electrical designers, safety managers and procurement officers.

… developed as a team effort by DuPont, a recognized leader in safety:

Technical and engineering personnel from DuPont Engineering Research & Technology, DuPont Personal Protection, and external independent experts in electrical arc, have thus collaborated to develop “a European approach to electrical arc risk assessment.”

Within the framework of European legislation, the DuPont™ Arc-Guide

- Gives you guidance that will help avoid worker injuries, equipment damage, as well as legal fines and punishment.
- Enhances your understanding of the electrical arc hazard as well as risk assessment, prevention and mitigation concepts.
- Assists you to easily locate, identify and engineer-out serious dangers.
- Helps you to match the level of residual thermal risks with the rated performance of available personal protective equipment (PPE) to optimize protection and comfort for workers.
- Is supported by a network of specialized consultants who will provide you with expert advice on arc flash risk assessment.

*Berufsgenossenschaft Energie Textil Elektro Medienzweige 2