



ENERGIZED WORK PERMISSIONS

Critical Fuse List identifies fuse boxes with critical equipment that must remain energized during maintenance of other equipment in the same panel. It identifies critical equipment as “necessary for safe ship’s operation or performance of ship’s mission.”

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CONFUSION ABOUT CRITICAL EQUIPMENT IS AN ELEVATED RISK TO FLEET

Naval Safety Command (NAVSAFECOM) identified a common misconception about exceptions for working on critical equipment. The Local Area Assessments team found the confusion lies in the difference between the Commanding Officer’s approved Critical Fuse List and the requirement to obtain permission before conducting energized work.

Naval Ships’ Technical Manual (NSTM), Electrical Plant, Chapter 300

“...the approval of a critical equipment list is not permission to perform energized work. Permission to perform energized work shall be explicitly obtained prior to each evolution.”

The policy could not be any clearer. If the circuit is over 30 volts and still energized, unless you are just pulling a dead-front fuse (NSTM 300, paragraph 2.5.3.5), you must have the commanding officer’s permission to work on the circuit.



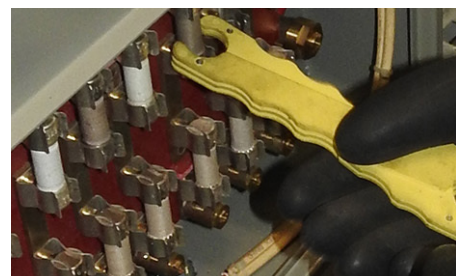
AMPED UP ABOUT SAFETY

Before conducting any energized work, such as pulling fuses that are not tagged out, it is essential to obtain the Commanding Officer’s approval.

Commands should self-monitor their internal process for pulling fuses. A large percentage of equipment requires fuses to be pulled before being properly tagged out for maintenance. It is easy to open a fuse panel, reach in and pull the fuses with a fuse puller. It is also wrong.

It is crucial to ensure the workforce understands the need for explicit permission to conduct energized work and all the other precautions required by NSTM 300. Otherwise, you might find yourself on the receiving end of a shocking experience.

Remember to follow the proper procedures and obtain the necessary permissions before working on critical equipment or conducting energized work. After all, we wouldn’t want anyone to get shocked over a simple misunderstanding.



NAVSAFECOM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Obtain Commanding Officer permission prior to working on energized systems greater than 30 volts.
2. Understand difference between Critical Fuse List and the need for explicit permission to conduct energized work.



AFLOAT SAFETY, NAVAL SAFETY COMMAND - Keeping our sea warriors informed and ready

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