Low voltage electrical switchgear is often in the form of distribution boards (DB) and motor control centres (MCC). Non-electrically qualified workers, generally plant
operators and fitters, often require access to this type of switchgear for resetting overload trips and isolation purposes.

**Issue**

Often low voltage switchgear enclosures can be opened and exposed energised conductors are present. Generally non-electrically qualified workers will not have the knowledge to recognise hazards presented by these exposed energised conductors.

**Position**

Where non-electrically qualified workers are required to have access to existing low voltage electrical switchgear that requires the opening of enclosure doors, ALL exposed energised conductors shall be shielded from intentional and inadvertent contact. The shielding can be earthed barriers or insulated barriers. The barriers shall be permanently fixed in position and shall have warning signs or labels attached identifying that there are energised conductors at a specified voltage behind the barrier.

Where new electrical switchgear is to be installed and it is intended for non-electrically qualified workers to operate the switchgear for any purpose, the switchgear must only be operable from external to the switchgear enclosure.

Where only electrically qualified persons are permitted to have access, the doors or covers of the enclosure shall be bolted or locked in position and signs or labels attached that prohibit unauthorised access.