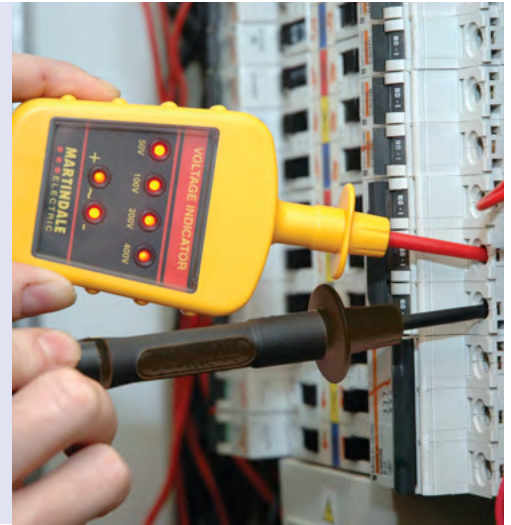


For many years Voltage indicators always included a fuse in the probe to limit the current in the event of damage to the cable. In May 2013 BS EN 61243-3:2010 came into force requiring a different approach to limit the current in the event of cable damage. All later editions have the same requirement.



There is a technical argument that fuses in a voltage indicator can cause unreliability and any problem with the fuse could cause the voltage indicator not to indicate a hazardous voltage. In reality this risk is very small and correct proving procedures will identify the problem. None the less, because of this potential problem, BS EN 61243-3 prohibits the use of fuses in 2 pole voltage indicators.

In order to fully comply with BS EN 61243-3:2010 Martindale released the VI-13800 and VI-15000 Voltage indicators. These models have the fuse replaced by a high wattage resistor in the probe that will limit the current in the event of damage to the cable. This protection is superior to the protection offered by the fuse as the current that can flow under fault conditions is considerably less. Many competitor products have no protection built into the probe. In June 2015 a revised edition of HSE Guidance note GS38 was published which requires voltage indicators to be built to the new standard BS EN 61242-3. Edition 4 of GS38 also includes other useful advice on how to work safely through the proper selection and maintenance of test equipment.

The Martindale VI-13800 and VI-15000 both include a contrasting inner cable sheath to quickly identify cable damage. The probes on both are clearly marked "impedance protected" rather than showing a fuse rating, and both are sealed and have no user replaceable parts.

There is no specific requirement to replace older fused products which are in use. NB Proper proving procedures should always be used with any voltage indicator.

All new Martindale and Drummond voltage indicators currently available include impedance protection as standard in compliance with BS EN 61243-3.



VI-13700/2

VI-13800



Keeping You Safe

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