

Energy Isolation: Verify Before Servicing

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Why this matters

Stopped equipment can still move or release energy. Before clearing a jam or servicing a machine, confirm how the actual energy hazards will be controlled and who is authorized to verify protection.

Objective: Identify the applicable isolation procedure and evidence needed before exposure.

Key hazards or failure points

Unexpected restart; pressure, gravity or springs; another supply; wrong equipment; stored energy returning; protection lost during handoff.

Practical controls

- Use the equipment-specific procedure for this task. Authorized personnel identify energy sources, isolation points and stored-energy controls. Resolve a mismatch before work.
- Follow the required shutdown, isolation and lockout/tagout arrangement. A stop button is not an energy-isolating device. Do not substitute a tag for a lock for convenience.
- Coordinate affected workers, contractors and shifts. Keep clear until authorized verification is complete. Never bypass another person's protection.

Verify It in the Field

Match equipment identification and work boundaries to the procedure. Ask the authorized person which sources and stored-energy hazards it covers.

The authorized person performs the prescribed safe verification and records the actual result. Address energy that can reaccumulate. A visible lock or silent motor alone proves too little.

Confirm how each protected worker and incoming shift is covered. Record procedure revision, verifier, result and continuing checks. Electrical testing belongs to qualified personnel under the applicable electrical procedure.

Stop and reassess

Hold servicing for unknown energy, a failed check, movement, changed scope or an uncertain handoff. Keep clear, notify the authorized person, restore and verify protection, and rebrief before resuming.

Ask the crew

1. Which procedure covers this equipment and task?
2. Who verifies protection, and what result is required?
3. How will a shift change preserve protection?

General-industry servicing. Construction needs its applicable rules and procedures.

Sources: OSHA 1910.147 and 1910.333; applicable energy-control program.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/energy-isolation-lockout-verification