Survey carried out 22nd June - 4th July. www.learninglounge.com

Electrician removal of service cut-out fuse

The survey was emailed out to 28,000 learninglounge.com electrical learners.

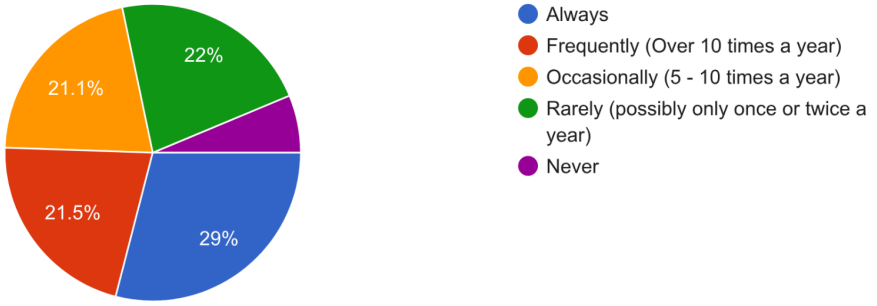
558 people had responded by the close date. Based on sampling size, this would indicate that the survey results have an approximate margin of error of **±4.1%** at a 95% confidence level, indicating that of the 28,000 around **24,000 will have removed the fuse without authorisation.**

Worryingly, around 30% - 8,400 individuals would have worked live rather than removing the fuse.

Question One

How frequently have you chosen to personally remove the service cut-out fuse (without formal DNO/DSO request) so that you can carry out your work safely, with the installation made dead?

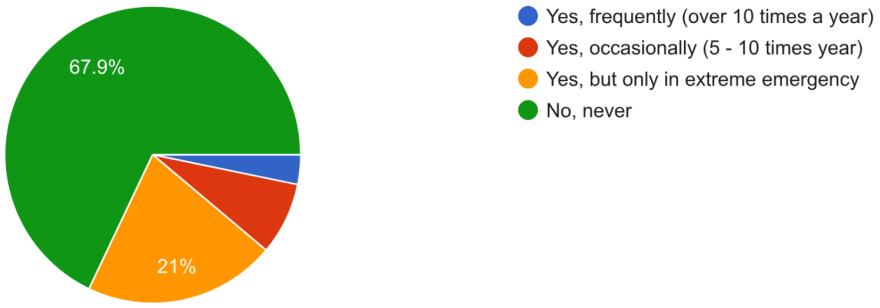
558 responses



Question Two

Have you ever chosen instead to do the job (replacing consumer unit etc) with the meter tails still live?

558 responses



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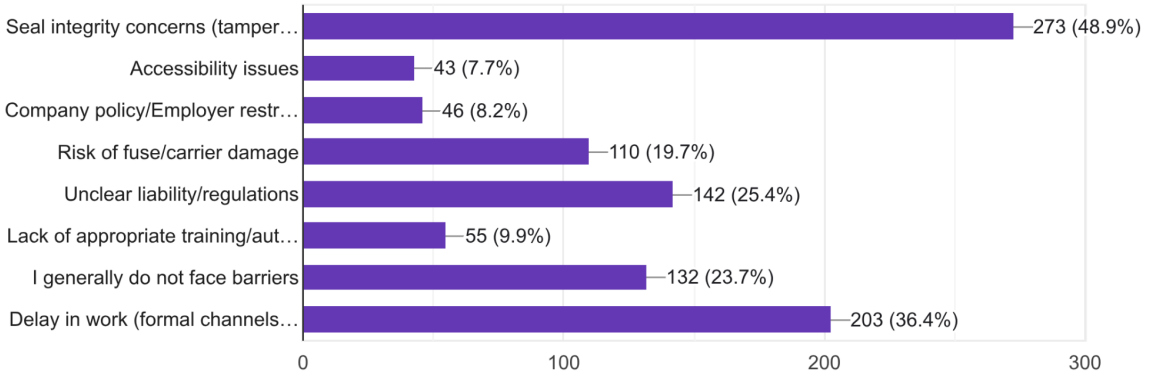
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Question Three

What are the primary barriers preventing you from pulling the service cut-out fuse when you need to isolate a circuit?

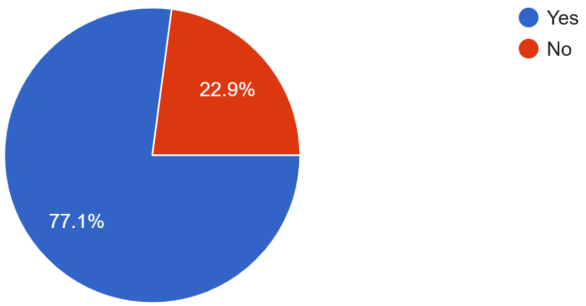
558 responses



Question Four

Would you be interested in formal training to become someone who is recognised as being competent to carry out the safe removal of the service cut-out fuse?

476 responses



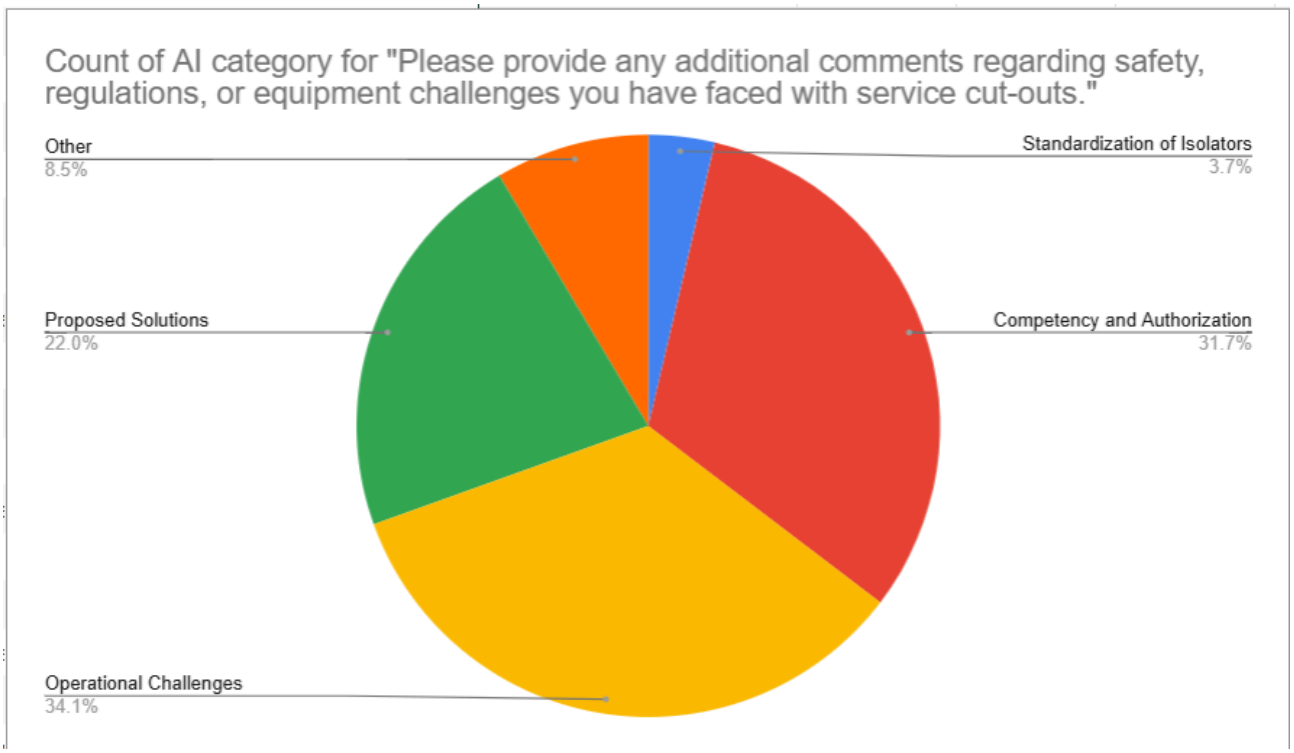
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Summary of additional notes:

- **Inadequate DNO Service:** Electricians frequently report significant frustration with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) due to long wait times, missed appointments, and prohibitive costs for installing isolation switches or pulling fuses, often forcing contractors to choose between project delays, working on live systems, or removing the fuse themselves.
- **Competency and Safety Concerns:** Many qualified electricians feel it is inherently safer and more professional for them to perform isolation and resealing themselves rather than working live or waiting for non-electrician meter installers to perform the task. There is widespread support for an industry-standardized, formal training and certification process—including the provision of traceable, numbered security seals—to legitimize this practice for competent contractors.
- **Universal Isolation Requirements:** A strong consensus exists that DNOs and energy suppliers should be mandated to install a double-pole isolation switch at the supply origin as standard practice, particularly when upgrading to smart meters, which would effectively eliminate the need for tampering with service cut-out fuses.
- **Systemic Inconsistency:** Current practices regarding fuse removal vary wildly across different regions and DNOs, leading to confusion and potential legal risks for electricians. Participants expressed that the existing regulatory approach is outdated, bureaucratic, and fails to align with modern Health and Safety obligations or the practical realities of the trade.



Survey carried out by Terry Brown, Director Navigator Productions Ltd.
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