

Ten steps to a successful electrical refurb

Electrical refurbishments can be challenging projects and each site presents its own unique obstacles. For each project, contractors must ensure that they consider the possible risks, identify mitigation measures and record and communicate any action taken. If the correct action is taken, refurbishments can be extremely successful for both client and contractor.

Here, Boulting gives its top considerations for an electrical refurb.

Planning and design

No two projects are ever the same. To ensure the best outcome, planning methods such as integrated project delivery (IPD), which encourages collaboration between teams, alternative building techniques including modularisation and tools such as building information modelling (BIM) should be considered.



Health and safety

Working with electrical equipment means health and safety must be at the forefront of engineers' minds, from the planning stage through to completion. Machinery, equipment and the environment may pose health and safety risks. To minimise incidents, ensure employees undergo appropriate training, which is particularly important when working in hazardous environments.

Access and assess all information and drawings

Collate reference materials in order to produce a project plan, which could include drawings, modification information, maintenance testing and inspection records and survey reports.



Understand your environment

A well thought out plan also safe guards workers. Refurbishments often require work in little-used, remote or older environments that may be unsafe.



Consider and carry out any required surveys

These may range from tracing cables due to a lack of drawings, or asbestos and chemical contamination surveys to protect workers.

Consider the impact of downtime

Identify which supplies have an impact on production and understand the bigger picture. In manufacturing environments, preparing cables so they are ready to be reconnected and recommissioned, minimising downtime.



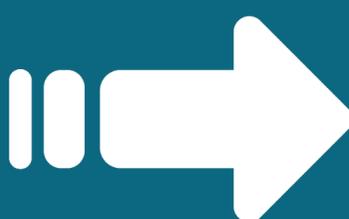
Ensure the correct control procedures are in place

When working alongside live systems, the correct isolation, health and safety procedures and permits can help to assist in reducing risks to the engineer carrying out the work.



Consider asset life extension – even for young equipment

Take the opportunity to make sure the equipment is running smoothly and efficiently. A risk based maintenance programme can help to ensure issues are identified ahead of equipment failure, reducing plant downtime and extending asset life.



Take ownership of the system and make sure it complies to the latest regulations

Regulations are constantly being updated. BS 7671 or the IEE wiring regulation, is now on its 17th edition, with the 18th edition due to come into effect January 2019

Use the correct test equipment

Specialist equipment might be necessary to check a systems safety, for example to pass high voltages across a connection, or seal a connection to the correct pressure with a torque wrench.



For more information and expert advice on how to successfully refurbish electrical equipment, contact Boulting on +44 (0) 1925 446000 or visit www.boulting.co.uk.