

Dairy Farm Safety

A dairy can be a safer place to work by following a few simple rules:

- Place electrical equipment like milking machines, bulk milk coolers and dairy water heaters in the most accessible positions possible
- Make sure livestock can't touch switchgear and motor driving equipment, and you can reach electrical equipment if animals are panicking
- Allow plenty of clear space for working - and make sure there's adequate lighting.

Switchboard Designs

If possible, the switchboard in dairies should be installed in the centre of the dairy. It is then easily accessible - it should also be at a suitable height.

It's vital you can turn off all electrical equipment completely and quickly by operating one or more main switches in case of an accident. Install a Safety Switch.

Make sure the purpose of every switch and its 'on' and 'off' positions are clearly marked on switchboards. Where more than one voltage supply exists, the different voltages available should also be clearly marked.

Write the contact details for emergency services near the main switchboard. Include a circuit diagram so faults can be traced quickly by a registered electrician.

Voltage Build-up

Small voltages of electricity can seriously affect cows in milking sheds. These small voltages find their way from the electrical system through the milking machine or metal bail to the cows. The effect is a slight shock which while not physically dangerous can affect milk let-down and production.

The simplest way of preventing this is to bond all conductive surfaces cows are likely to come into contact with to the main earthing conductors of electrical installations. This bonding ensures milking machines and bail hardware, floors and electrical equipment are at around the same voltage - and no cows will be shocked.

Contact a registered electrician for more information.

