

IEEE Guide for In-Service Maintenance and Electrical Testing of Live-Line Tools

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of the
IEEE Power Engineering Society**

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of IEEE Std 978-1984, IEEE Guide for In-Service Maintenance and Electrical Testing of Live-Line Tools.)

Live-line tools made of wood were made commercially available about 1918, and fiberglass (FRP) tools have been in use since the early 1950s. Historically, these insulated tools have had a remarkable safety record. Outside of accidents from carelessness or improper use of live-line tools, there are few, if any, fatalities resulting from the degradation of the electrical insulating qualities of the tool whether they be made of wood or fiberglass.

This excellent safety record of live-line tools is prone to giving rise to complacency; thus, some users give little thought to the need for the periodic testing of their tools. On the other hand, many users inspect their tools before each use and periodically test them electrically. Others recognize the need to inspect and test but they have no guide or standard to which they should test.

It is from this latter group that a number expressed their need for a guide covering the In-Service Maintenance and Testing of Live-Line Tools.

The subcommittee of Electrical Safety and Maintenance and Operation of Lines (ESMOL), a subcommittee of the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Committee of IEEE accepted this project. A working group was formed in June 1979, covering *Tools and Equipment* and assigned the project to prepare a test guide.

Prior to drafting the guide, a survey of the user community was conducted to determine if such a guide is indeed needed and, if so, some pertinent answers sought to aid in the preparation of the guide. The response to this survey was persuasive.

After four years of committee work, approvals were obtained from the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Committee and from the IEEE Standards Board in September of 1983. This standard represents a progressive step in making recommendations for the in-service maintenance and electrical testing of live-line tools based on sound engineering principles, engineering safety considerations and decades of testing, and field experience by utilities. It is intended that the contents of this guide will be modified as future needs dictate, and suggestions for improvements of this guide are welcomed. They should be sent to:

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