



Pre-Use Inspection of Rubber Protective Equipment

The pre-use inspection of rubber protective equipment is paramount in protecting line workers from different potentials. Electrical injuries can be caused by the use of damaged, worn or contaminated rubber protective equipment.

Pre-use inspection must, at minimum, cover the following:

- All IPE¹/IPPE² shall be inspected for any damage, wear or contamination that would compromise its ability to insulate the linemen from different potentials. Inspect for:
 - Age cracks
 - Cuts
 - Tears
 - Hard spots
 - Ozone cracks
 - Punctures
 - Test date
 - Date of issue
- If upon inspection; IPE/IPPE is found to be defective or out of date, the equipment shall be identified and removed from service.
- Applicable service dates and voltage rating shall be observed.
- Insulating rubber gloves shall be given an air test along with an inspection completed by the qualified user.
- Insulating rubber sleeves shall be inspected by the qualified user.

The use of this best practice provides uniform inspection guidelines for in-service inspection of insulating protective equipment and it ensures insulating protective equipment can be used to protect workers at the rated voltage.

Read the complete Best Practice here: [Pre-Use Inspection of Rubber Protective Equipment](#)

www.powerlinesafety.org

¹ Insulating Personal Protective Equipment (IPPE): Insulating rubber Gloves and Sleeves.

² Insulating Protective Equipment (IPE): Insulating rubber blankets, rubber line hose, rubber hoods, plastic covers, etc.