High voltage 11 kV electricity distribution equipment: ABB Sentinel Ring Main Units type SO1 only.
Ring switch failure with incorrect indication.

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes
Technical Standards Directorate
Sutton Coldfield Mil extn 2169
Direct Dialling 0121 311 2169

NOTICE AUTHORISED BY:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes

Date:
Safety Notice 98/08

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INTRODUCTION

1. THE CONTENTS OF THIS NOTICE ARE TO SECURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974.

2. This Notice is for the attention of Commanding Officers, Chief Executives, Heads of Establishment, Property Managers, Defence Lands Agents, Establishment Works Consultants (EWCs), Works Services Managers (WSMs), Authorising Engineers, Authorised Persons and Contractors, involved in works for MOD.

3. This Notice is to be read by all persons involved with any works associated with the equipment that is the subject of this Notice.

4. No work involving expenditure on an MOD account is to be carried out without authority from the Property Manager or the appropriate MOD officer for that location or facility.

5. Any work required as a result of this Safety Notice must be carried out in accordance with MOD Safety Rules and Procedures as applicable.

6. The Co-ordinating Authorised Person, or other responsible person, is to notify the Property Manager:

   of the location of any equipment which exists on the Establishment and is the subject of this Notice as soon as it has been identified;

   and

   when the relevant modifications are completed, that the appropriate remedial action has been carried out.

7. Defects are to be immediately reported to the Property Manager and the applicable Authorising Engineer who must impose appropriate operating restrictions on the equipment that is the subject of this Notice, until remedial action is completed.

8. For MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF), the responsibilities of Property Manager, EWC and WSM are jointly held by the USVF and DEO(USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Notice. Where this Notice contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, a DEO(USF) Code of Practice section will be issued.
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REQUIREMENT

9. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE TO ENSURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PASSED TO THEIR PROPERTY MANAGERS OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS WITHOUT DELAY.

10. No persons are to be permitted to carry out any switching on the ring switches of ABB Sentinel ring main units type SO1 serial numbers 001-SO1 to 100-SO1 inclusive.

11. The manufacturer must be contacted for advice on the appropriate remedial action. Once this remedial work has been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorising Engineer, or other responsible person, then this operational restriction can be lifted.

12. The ABB contact point is:

   Mr Ken Bode (pronounced Bo - dee) Tel: 0151 355 3717.

BACKGROUND

11. An Electricity Association Notice has been received advising of a suspension of operating practice following the failure of the ring switch mechanism on an ABB Sentinel ring main unit. When the ring switch mechanism is operated from "off" to "on", the indicator shows "on", but only one phase actually switches to "on". The other two phases remain switched to "off".

12. ABB have advised that only the first 100 of these units may have this defect. The production method was changed for the subsequent 140 units (serial numbers 101-SO1 to 240-SO1), and the design was then changed for the SO2 model. According to ABB, this particular defect cannot occur in the SO2 range of ring main units.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE