Safety Notice

Health and Safety Warning Notice 98/04

High voltage 11kV electricity distribution equipment: Statter ODSA oil switches

Prohibition of access and suspension of normal operational practice.

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes
Technical Standards Directorate
Sutton Coldfield Mil ext 2169

NOTICE AUTHORISED BY:
P D Meakin
AD Industrial Processes

Date:
Safety Notice 98/04

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INTRODUCTION

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

2. This Notice is for the attention of Commanding Officers, Chief Executives, Heads of Establishment, Property Managers, Defence Land 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. 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.

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 Safety 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

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

9. No persons are to enter the substations/switch rooms where Statter ODSA high voltage electricity distribution oil switches are installed whilst the equipment is live.

10. A prohibition of live switching of Statter ODSA high voltage electricity distribution oil switches is to be imposed with immediate effect.

11. This prohibition is to be imposed indefinitely and the switchgear affected by this Notice will need to be replaced.

BACKGROUND

12. An Electricity Association Notice has been received advising of a flashover inside the tank of a Statter ODSA oil switch. This caused the lid of the tank to be broken off from its fixings and oil was expelled. In view of the associated fire risk, access to all live substations and switchrooms containing these switches is prohibited.

13. We have been advised that the manufacturers Statter were acquired by English Electric and then closed. English Electric subsequently became part of the GEC group of companies during 1969, and is now part of GEC Alsthom. GEC Alsthom are unable to supply any drawings or spare parts for Statter switchgear.

14. It is quite clear that any Statter switchgear on the MOD Estate is at least twenty five years old and probably over thirty years old. It would have been installed by the former Property Services Agency (PSA) against a predicted working life of 25 years for outdoor switchgear and 30 years for indoor switchgear. (Former PSA M&E Cost Planning Guide - Engineering Economics and Cost in Use Volume 3 Table 4.2 refers).

15. In view of the age of this switchgear and the lack of availability of drawings and spare parts, it is envisaged that this prohibition will never be lifted. This switchgear must, therefore, be considered as at the end of, or beyond the end of its useful economic life, and replaced.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE