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NATIONAL SAFETY INSTRUCTION

WASHING HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATORS

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**WASHING HIGH VOLTAGE
INSULATORS**

CONTENTS

	Page
1 Scope	2
2 Definitions	2
3 Equipment Identification	2
4 Dangers	2
5 General Requirements	2
6 Additional Requirements for Washing 400 kV Insulators	3

WASHING HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATORS

1. SCOPE

This National Safety Instruction applies the principles established by the Safety Rules to achieve **Safety from the System** for personnel using portable equipment to wash **Live** 132kV and 275kV insulators and **Isolated** 400 kV insulators in open type substations.

2. DEFINITIONS

Terms printed in bold type are as defined in the Safety Rules.

3. EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION

Equipment on which washing is to be carried out must be readily identifiable. Where necessary a means of identification shall be fixed to it which will remain effective throughout the course of the work.

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4. DANGERS

The main **Dangers** to personnel washing insulators in substations containing **Live Equipment** are electric shock or burns due to

- the washing equipment becoming **Live**
- electrical flashover.

5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The **Control Person (Operation)** must be informed before the start of washing and also when it is complete.
- 5.2 The setting up and positioning of the equipment and the carrying out of the work must be done by a **Competent Person**. He must wear **Approved** rubber gloves and suitable protective clothing. He may be accompanied by another **Person** for training purposes who is similarly equipped. There must be effective communication between them during the course of the work.
- 5.3 Only **Approved** washing equipment must be used. This equipment must have fitted to it a device to monitor the purity of the water. The monitoring device must sound an audible alarm should the conductivity exceed that shown in 5.6. In addition an automatic cut-out device must operate to prevent further washing. The automatic cut-out device must be tested prior to washing commencing.
- 5.4 The equipment must have a nozzle which breaks the water jet into a spray before reaching the insulator being washed.

- 5.5 The nozzle, the metal operating platform and any other metal parts of the equipment must be bonded together and the equipment **Earthed** by a suitable earthing lead which is not less than 65mm² copper equivalent in cross-section.
- 5.6 The conductivity of the water used must not exceed 200 micro siemens/cm at 25°C. The conductivity of the water must be checked by a **Competent Person** daily before washing commences and when the source of water changes.
- 5.7 The equipment and the **Competent Person(s)** carrying out the work must be not less than 6m (20ft) away from the insulator(s) being washed and care must be taken that
 - a no other **Live** conductor at a lesser distance is inadvertently sprayed
 - b not more than one phase is washed by the same jet
 - c no two insulators less than 6m (20ft) apart which are at different potentials are washed by the same jet
 - d at no time during the washing must the operator step off the **Earthed** metal operating platform or accept materials from, or make physical contact with, any individuals not in the same **Earthed** environment
 - e washing is carried out in such a manner that any overspray shall fall only on clean insulation.
- 5.8 Washing must be carried out as follows
 - a) for vertical insulators – start at the bottom and work upwards
 - b) for horizontal insulators – start at the earth end and work towards the **Live** end.
- 5.9 Water washing must be discontinued
 - a) in the event of a local lightning risk
 - b) if the ambient temperature is below 0°C
 - c) in the event of wind speeds being too high to enable the operator to control the jet.

6. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WASHING 400KV INSULATORS

- 6.1 Each 400 kV circuit on which washing is to be carried out, must be **Isolated** from the **HV System** before washing commences. There is no need for **Points of Isolation** to be established.
- 6.2 A **Senior Authorised Person** must determine, dependent upon the proximity of adjacent **Live** 400 kV **Equipment**, the need for any special working arrangements which may include defining the extent of the working area.