Safety Banner

Date Issued: 04 September 2018 **Incident Title:** SF6 Gauge Checks

Event Details:

At PowerNet we have had one incidence of SF6 pressure loss in a Schneider FBX RMU. There have also been many recent reports from the UK based National Equipment Defect Report (NEDeR) system of SF6 gas leaks with Schneider Electric RN2c Ring main units.

Schneider UK have issued a defect notice for RN2c, RN6c, RE2c units manufactured between 2000 - 2004. PowerNet networks have 9 of these units, all in EIL. All of these installed units were manufactured outside the date range and serial number range specified in the defect notice.

While we are not aware of other equipment type defects, we must remember to check the SF6 pressure before operating network equipment.

PowerNet equipment types with SF6:

RMU / Switch	Schneider (formerly Merlin Gerin)	FBX
		RE2C
		RN2C
		SE6
	Siemens	8DJH
	G & W Electric	Puffer
		Rotary

CB	Merlin Gerin	SB6-72
	Nulec	N24
	ABB	HPA 36
		72PM40
		HD4
	Brush (Hawker Siddeley)	PMR

CB	Alstom (formerly Areva / Alsthom / GEC)	FXT9
		GL309
		S1-72.5 F1
		GL107X
		MC36

Sulfur hexafluoride, or SF6 is a heavy, inert, nontoxic and incombustible gas. It is used as an insulation medium in electrical distributing devices like Circuit Breakers and Ring Main Units.

All SF6 insulated equipment will have a pressure gauge on the unit.

We do not want to put our workmates at risk:

1. Only operate switchgear that you are confident and competent to operate. **(Don't wing it!!!)**

2. Check the pressure gauge prior to operating equipment **(Green is good – Red is bad.)**

3. If the SF6 Gauge on any switchgear indicates empty or in the Red then immediately STOP what you are doing and notify System Control immediately for further instruction.