



Safety Advice 05-2009 (NZ)

Holec Xiria 11kV Switchgear Advice

The following advice information has been distributed for users of this equipment. Please also note the manufacturer correspondence that has been included. Any further available information will be distributed in due course.

Holec Xiria 11kV Switchgear

The switchgear has been supplied by Eaton. Five units have been installed, a further unit was purchased for future installation and two other spare units are held pending future jobs.

History

PowerNet had some previous operational concerns with one of its Xiria switchgear units prior to the recent incident. This Xiria switchgear had been supplied from Eaton's China factory and had been modified while in China. The modifications caused problems with the operation of the mimic panel on the switchgear. Eaton carried out remedial work at the substation to correct a mimic panel problem.

PowerNet has not experienced any further operational issues with the Xiria switchgear already commissioned and lived in across its networks. The incidents detailed below occurred during operational functional testing of the other units while in a workshop environment.

Incident Detail

Two identical incidents occurred on two separate Xiria units during functional testing in a workshop environment. The CB's associated with each unit jammed mid operation. The failures are internal within the tanks of the CBs. The cause of the failures is unknown at this time and one unit has been returned to Eaton for investigation. Eaton has also confirmed that the two units that have failed mid operation came via the China supply route. Eaton has confirmed it is arranging for specialists to inspect the failed unit to provide an engineers report on the failure mode and contributing factors. Eaton expects the provisional findings and report to be available towards the end of April. Eaton is of the opinion that the units failed in a safe condition. A copy of Eaton's letter is attached.

PowerNet has applied interim operational restrictions on the one China sourced unit already in operation until the investigation is complete.



Date: Mar 31, 2009

Reg Clutterbuck
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OBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF SAFETY ON FAILED XIRIA UNITS

Dear Customers:

Thank you for your email of Mar 11, 2009 describing the dissatisfaction you have with Xiria units that returned from Mobsburn Station-Powernet Limited in New Zealand. We appreciate your sincerity and must agree that Xiria is not perfect. Please accept our truthful apologies.

We confirm two units that have failed in mid operation position were supplied by us, and no acute safety issue will pose to operating personnel in front of panel when unit failed in mid position.

Again, please accept our apology for this inconvenience.

Sincerely

Changzhou Eaton SenYuan Switch Co., Ltd
1 West Hengtaigang Road
Changzhou 413028, PRC



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