



Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

Restriction on test plug use on ABB LV Board

A flashover occurred on the test connection facility on the ABB LV switchboard whilst an operator was carrying out testing associated with the disconnection of generator.

The engineer was using the 4mm Banana plug test sockets on the LV board to obtain a voltage reference source when the flashover occurred. The engineer was wearing the appropriate LV PPE for the testing work and was uninjured.

This is the second instance where a flashover has occurred on an ABB LV board whilst the test plugs were being used. The cause of the failure has been attributed to the deterioration of the plastic insulation around the test socket where it is fixed to the earthed metal steelwork of the panel. The insulation appears to have become brittle and can break away when applying test leads at the socket. The test socket connects directly to the LV busbars via an unfused lead.

A programme is to be initiated to modify ABB LV boards with test sockets that have more robust insulation and have a fuse in the supply lead at the busbar connection point.

Until such time as these modifications have been carried out a restriction banning the use of these test sockets has been applied.

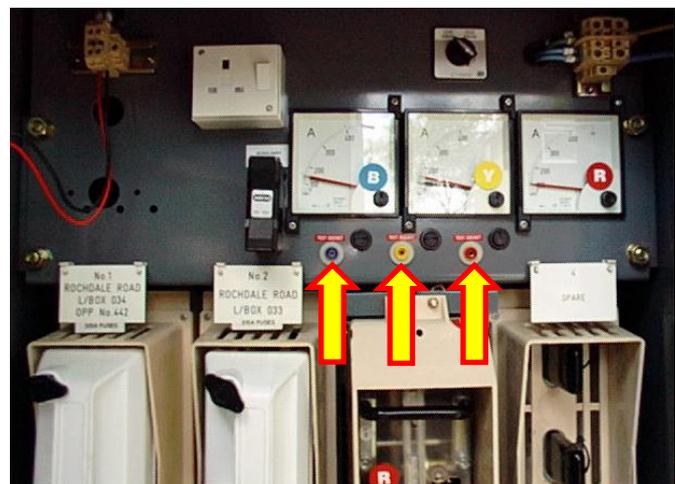
Not all manufacturers of LV fuse cabinets are recorded in the asset database and operators need to be aware to check the type of LV board prior to any testing work being carried out



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This newsflash must be given the widest possible circulation, with personal copies issued by managers to all appropriate staff.