



Protection Barrier Measures and Controls

WHAT HAPPENED?

A protection technician inadvertently sent an InterTrip Send command from the wrong relay, to the remote end's incorrect relay (from SVL T2 Protection to ALB CCT 2 Line Protection).

The technician was conducting InterTrip checks on a communication path, prior to modifications. He was working in conjunction with a second technician, at the remote end (end-to-end testing).

There were two consecutive outages planned on CCT 1 and CCT 2, on the same day. The technician had connected his laptop to the wrong relay, prior to the commencement of the first outage.



ROOT CAUSE

Technician did not check/identify the correct protection relay prior to issuing the command. The Work Method Statement (WMS) being used did not prompt them to apply the required blanking/barriers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Follow the [TP.SS 06.56 Work authority procedure](#) for demarcation. (Outlined in Page 18, Section 4 Principle Requirements and Page 36, Section 9.3.2 Demarcation of Work Areas)
- All service providers ensure technicians apply the correct controls (blanking of "in service" cabinet(s))
- All service providers ensure their technicians have blanking panels readily available.
- All service providers review their Work Method Statement (WMS) documents, to ensure the key step (apply barriers) is included on the template for every job.



LEARNINGS

- Every task should be approached with the intention to first identify all risks and then to use all available controls, to eliminate or mitigate the risk.
- Positive identification of the correct equipment to be operated.
- Barrier or blanking of the in-service equipment.

Name	Michael Sloper
Position	Telecommunications Transport Services Manager
Mobile	021682737
Email	michael.sloper@transpower.co.nz
Maximo Ref	120929
Incident Date	17th May 2019