

IT DOESN'T MATTER UNTIL IT MATTERS

THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO YOUR OPERATION IS PROBABLY SOMETHING YOU TAKE MORE OR LESS FOR GRANTED. AND THANKS TO THE RELIABILITY OF MOST MODERN ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR AND TRANSFORMERS, USUALLY YOU CAN. BUT IT ONLY NEEDS ONE FAILURE OF THE SUPPLY OR ITS ON-SITE DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT FOR YOU TO BE REMINDED JUST HOW MUCH A SAFE AND GUARANTEED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY MATTERS.



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A failure of HV or LV switchgear or other power distribution equipment is rarely a simple matter. Even if the failure is not a catastrophic one in terms of explosion, fire and danger to life, it can still be disastrous in terms of downtime and loss of production. And yet many operations fail to maintain this equipment, or even to meet their Duty of Care, either until an equipment failure reminds them or – as is increasingly becoming the case – their insurer raises the issue in an audit which threatens to invalidate their policy.

If there is an emergency, you may be able to call on an emergency engineer – perhaps from the company which originally installed the equipment (if they're still in business). However, it's far more effective, less stressful, and less likely to lead to costly downtime, if instead you make arrangements

to avoid an emergency, through regular maintenance and checks. And even if you currently have an on-site engineer who takes care of the equipment, have you considered what will happen when he – and his accumulated knowledge and experience – moves on or retires? Believe it or not, there have been cases where the engineer taking over didn't even know where the key to the transformer room was kept!

The best way to avoid this kind of scenario – and much, much worse – is a maintenance and emergency repair contract with a reputable and knowledgeable power distribution service company. Then, although your equipment is out of sight, you can be sure that it is never out of mind.

ERIKS Power Distribution Services, for example, will carry out an initial inspection of your electrical switchgear and transformers, and advise on a recommended frequency of inspection and maintenance – which may be less than you think. After all, an annual internal inspection of switchgear is excessive, but annual operation of the gear (which

requires a fully-trained engineer) would be enough to ensure it is operating correctly and safely, and will fail-safe if and when required to do so.

Take out a Fixed Price Contract with *ERIKS* – over a term of years to suit you – and in addition to a 6 monthly or quarterly site survey, transformer oil analysis, and a visual inspection 6 monthly or quarterly of your substations and their equipment, you can also call on a 24/7 emergency service offering a guaranteed response within an agreed timeframe.

But do inspection and maintenance really matter?

When you consider that an 11,000V cable blows with the explosive power of an anti-tank mine, we think you'll agree that it does.

