



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

Safety Alert Part A only.

**Subject: Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 Circuit Breakers –
Operational Restriction**

Number: SA 2022-05

DIO Sponsor: Bryan Dunn

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Contact if different from above Sponsor:

Stephen Bayliss
Technical Services, Engineering & Construction
Defence Infrastructure Organisation.
DMS Whittington, Lichfield. Staffordshire. WS14 9PY

Email: stephen.bayliss103@mod.gov.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 7971708425

This Safety Alert is to be read by the following so appropriate action can be taken:

1. **DIO's Maintenance Management Organisations and their Supply Chains**
2. **DIO Regional Delivery Manager (or equivalent for non-NGEC contracts)**
3. **Head of Establishments**
4. **Others**

Others interested in the content of this Safety Alert might include:

Assurance Managers, Estate Facility Managers, Assurance Managers in Regional (Service) Delivery Health & Safety Advisors, Top Level Budget Holders, Prime Contractors, Project Managers, Infrastructure Managers and Property Managers with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs), Authorised Persons (Electrical), Authorising Engineer (Electrical) etc.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: When updated or rescinded.

Health and Safety

This Safety Alert does not necessarily cover all aspects of the subject matter and readers should make themselves aware of other potential issues. Readers should also not rely on DIO Publications as their only means of becoming aware of safety issues, but they should consult widely across other media to maintain awareness.

Aims

1. The aims of this Safety Alert are to bring to the attention of appropriate persons or organisations the need to impose an immediate Operational Restriction on 11kV Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 Circuit Breakers.

Introduction

2. Compliance with the contents of this Safety Alert will enable compliance with the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.
3. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with the Management of Health & Safety in Ministry of Defence – JSP375 Volume 3.

Background

4. UK Power Network's Engineering Operational Restriction EOR 14-1002 advises of an incident on a Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 circuit breaker.
5. During routine switching operations, a disruptive failure on the circuit breaker occurred during the manual spring charging process. The resultant discharge of uncontrolled energy initiated a catastrophic failure of the complete panel resulting in a fire of the switchboard. (See photographs at Annex A.)
6. The operatives evacuated the switchroom before the circuit breaker and switchboard flashed over and engulfed the room in fire. Fortunately, there were no injuries.
7. Yorkshire switchgear was bought by Schneider Electric. **BE AWARE YF6 switchboards may have either manufacturers' labelling.**

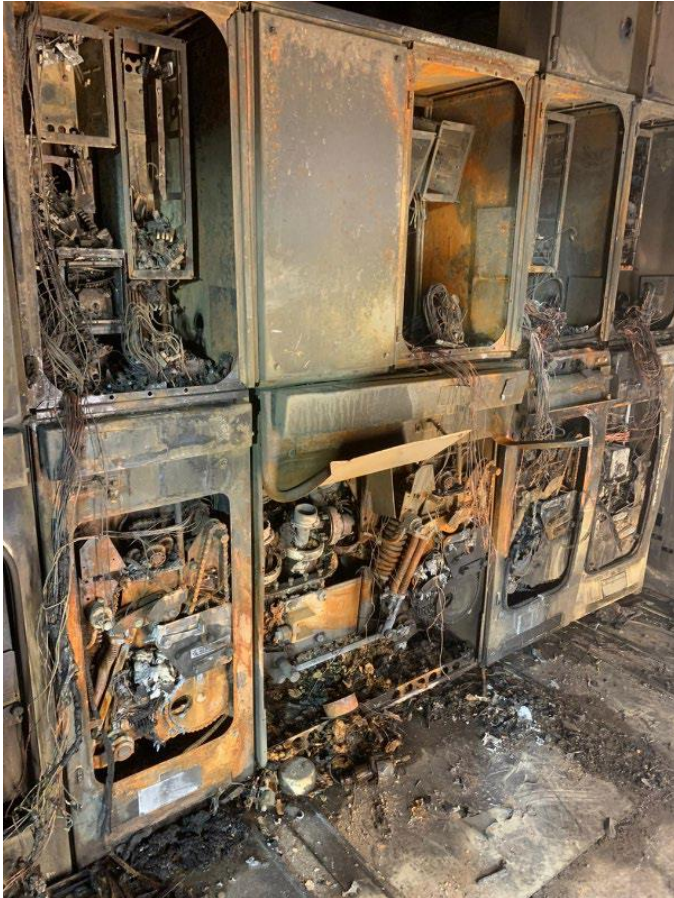
Part A

8. This Safety Alert concerns all Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 switchboards.
9. The MMO, on direction from the DIO Regional Delivery Manager or Equivalent, shall immediately initiate the following task:
 - a. Establish all establishments with Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 switchboards. (These will most likely be in the ISS, SBSS, or other indoor substations or switchrooms)
 - b. Restrict access to sub-stations and switchrooms containing Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 switchboards to essential personnel only, with the time spent within the sub-station to be kept to the absolute minimum. Exact access controls to be determined by the Authorising Engineer (Electrical).
 - c. The Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 switchboard shall be subject to **dead operation only, including when charging the spring mechanism.**
 - d. No operatives shall be present in a substation or switchroom containing Yorkshire or Schneider YSF6 Circuit Breakers when they are being energised.
10. The MMO is to notify the DIO Regional Delivery Safety Alerts Team (DIO-RDSafetyAlerts@mod.gov.uk) through their respective DIO Regional Delivery Manager

identifying the location, quantity, date of manufacture, and serial number of the YSF6 switchboards.

11. The requested data is required within 2 calendar months from issue date of this Safety Alert.

Photographs



Photograph – 01: Yorkshire /Schneider YSF6 switchboard after catastrophic failure.



Photograph – 02: Schneider YSF6 switchboard