



## 1 SCOPE

This document details the application of SOP 165 issued by the Electricity Association.

## 2 ISSUE RECORD

**This is a controlled maintained document**

**All copies printed via the Intranet or photocopied will be deemed uncontrolled.**

Issue Date	Issue No	Author	Amendment Details
October 2000	1	Esther Stewart	Initial Issue in New Format: 3 Page Document

## 3 ISSUE AUTHORITY

Author	Owner	Issue Authority
Esther Stewart	Roger Bracey	Roger Bracey Group Head, Standards .....



#### 4 SOP DETAILS

**TYPE:** GEC TYPE VMX Vacuum circuit  
breaker

**ORIGINATING REC:** SEEBOARD

**DATE:** 21/06/96

**NO. INSTALLED IN MANWEB:** 898

**NO. INSTALLED IN SCOTLAND:**

**STATUS:** Restriction

**REASON:** This defect was notified by SEEBOARD and was discovered when a circuit breaker was being closed electrically. When the main contacts were closed the spring charge motor started and the cb slow opened. Investigation revealed a second unit with a similar defect. The problem is due to an incorrect closing spring being fitted. Both manually and motor charged units are potentially affected.

**NOTE:** VMX cb's fitted with type EV1 interrupters are not affected by the defect. These cb's use a different closing spring with a much higher factor of safety.

#### **UPDATE :**

**REMEDIAL ACTION:** The following restriction shall apply to all type VMX circuit breakers with the exception of those fitted with type EV1 interrupters. (See Appendix 1)

- (1) Live operation of a circuit breaker shall wherever practicable be carried out by remote control. Where local operation is necessary restrictions 2-4 below will apply.
- (2) Any auto reclose facility shall be switched off prior to any local live operation of the circuit breaker.
- (3) The appropriate fuse/link shall be withdrawn to inhibit motor charging of the closing spring prior to the opening of the circuit breaker.
- (4) After charging the closing spring of an open circuit breaker, the appropriate fuse/ link shall be withdrawn to inhibit the motor charging of the closing spring prior to closing the circuit breaker.

**IN ADDITION :** A programme of checks of GEC type VMX circuit breakers shall be initiated by all regions, checks to be made in accordance with instructions detailed in Appendix 2. Circuit breakers found to be defective to be reported to Group Head, Standards, Company HQ.

#### **APPENDIX 1.**



GEC Reference	Original Destination	No Of Units Supplied
69,270	Metal Box	9
68,262	Greenfield	11
69,314	Birkenhead	2
69,332	Bromfield	2
68,357	NWF Wardel	7
69,333	Oswestry	4
69,336	Gwynedd	4
69,349	Winsford	3
69,372	Craif Fawr	5
69,373	St Asaph Business Park	7
69,401	Wrexham Wire	7
69,417	Liverpool FC	3
69,418	Grannox	4
69,419	Harrington St	5
69,427	Morrisons	3
69,433	Cable Comms	3
69,456	BICC Huyton Quarry	7
69,465	Harlech	4
69,551	Mid Mersey Sores	2
69,592	Port Sunlight	5
69,622	Grannox	3
69,696	Lever Bros	2
70,202	?	7
70,271	?	1
69,400	Glengail, Ayr	1
69,429	Ralston Linthouse Glasgow	3