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1. SCOPE

- 1.1. This specification covers site electrical pre-operational tests and commissioning tests required for electrical apparatus, wire, cables and other miscellaneous equipment and material as called for in the specifications and must be read in conjunction with the other specifications.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 2.1. Pre-operational tests and acceptance certificates as herein specified are defined as those tests and inspections required by the ENGINEER prior to equipment being energized to determine that the apparatus involved may be safely energized.
- 2.2. Calibrating tests, checks on limit switch settings, interlocking, PLC functioning etc. are so called cold commissioning or dry tests.
- 2.3. Hot commissioning tests are the tests as specified by the Engineer such as burn in tests for electronic equipment and continuous cycle tests etc. when the equipment is handling the product it was designed for.
- 2.4. Final acceptance will not only depend on equipment dependability, as determined by the subject tests, but will depend on complete operational tests on all equipment to show that the equipment will perform the functions for which it was designed.
- 2.5. These specifications intend that the workmanship methods, inspections and materials used in erection and installation of the subject equipment shall conform with accepted engineering practices, the specifications as prepared by the Engineer, Manufacturer's instructions and the relevant Standards as referred to in all the attached specifications.
- 2.6. The Contractor shall bear the costs of all tests required.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1. The testing shall be performed by and under the immediate supervision of the Contractor.
- 3.2. The Contractor shall adjust, set, co-ordinate, calibrate and test all systems and equipment furnished and/or installed by him.

- 3.3. The Contractor shall determine, and the Engineer shall approve the individuals in whom final responsibility and authority rests for carrying out these tests and inspection procedures on particular equipment. The method to be followed in obtaining clearances on electrical equipment shall also be established and such method rigidly adhered to.
- 3.4. All testing shall be scheduled by the Contractor and cleared through the Engineer. No testing of any kind shall be done or scheduled without this clearance.
- 3.5. The Contractor shall notify in person or by letter all the interested parties at least 24 hours prior to tests, establishing the time the test is to be performed.
- 3.6. The interested parties to be informed will be determined in conjunction with the Engineer.
- 3.7. The parties notified shall be responsible for having their representatives present at the designated time. Absence of any one representative will not prohibit the test from proceeding on schedule, unless such representative is essential in doing the tests.
- 3.8. Each of the notified interested parties and the testers employed shall be individually responsible for the safety of all members of their organization during such time as the tests are performed.
- 3.9. The Contractor will coordinate all testing to ensure that all trades are prepared and that the conditions are safe.
- 3.10. Detailed testing method and equipment shall be approved by the Engineer.
- 3.11. On some tests, particularly the final inspections of important equipment, the manufacturer's Engineer or representative shall be present and perform same. The request for a manufacturer's representative shall be made sufficiently in advance to the date the test is scheduled so that satisfactory arrangements for the representative's services can be made. Frequently, the manufacturer's responsibility applies to both electrical and mechanical equipment. Where such joint responsibility exists, the request for a manufacturer's representative shall be arranged to satisfy both electrical and mechanical requirements simultaneously.
- 3.12. Manufacturer's instructions shall be carefully read for any special conditions that may be required for testing.
- 3.13. Following established procedures, equipment will be energized after certification on the relevant form by the personnel performing the tests, that equipment is ready for energizing and with the concurrence of the Engineer.

4. TESTING EQUIPMENT

- 4.1. All testing equipment for tests which are to be performed shall be furnished by the Contractor.

- 4.2 Testing equipment required to prove guarantee values shall be calibrated immediately prior to the relevant tests to be performed. The error curves shall be submitted with the report.

5. TESTING RECORDS

- 5.1. Test results shall be entered in test forms provided by the Contractor or, if such forms are not available, in test forms approved by the Engineer.
- 5.2. Authorized, qualified representatives of the parties interested (see paragraph 3.0 shall be present to approve a test when made. One (1) copy of the rough draft-test report shall be given to each authorized representative at the time the test is made.
- 5.3. Formal test reports approved by the Engineer shall be supplied and prepared by the party performing the test within 48 hours, signed by the authorized representatives, and furnished to the Engineer for distribution.

6. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- 6.1. The Contractor shall exercise extreme care in performing the tests specified so as not to jeopardize the safety of personnel and to prevent equipment damage during any tests. All exposed live parts subject to testing shall be guarded by personnel, barricades, or other practical means to ensure against personnel being injured by coming in contact or close proximity to exposed parts.
- 6.2. All equipment, exposed live parts, etc., shall be completely discharged by grounding or other accepted methods so as to eliminate the possibility of injury to personnel from electrical shock after the tests have been completed.

7. PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE

- 7.1. The Engineer's Provisional Acceptance of any electrical installation shall be based upon the completion of tests and checks prescribed in clauses 8 through 13, submission of test data (where required), satisfactory materials and workmanship, and demonstration of satisfactory start-up.

8. EARTH CONTINUITY AND RESISTANCE TESTS

8.1. General:

- 8.1.1. All earthing and bonding cables must be checked for continuity and earth resistance.

8.2. Test procedure:

- 8.2.1. Measuring the cable and connection resistance simultaneously with a resistance bridge or accurate multi-meter.

8.3. Acceptance:

- 8.3.1. The resistance of the earthing and bonding cables and connections must be less than stated in SABS 0142/latest.
- 8.3.2. Complete and accurate records of all resistance readings of all earthing conductors of motors, transformers, power cables etc. must be made.

The records shall include the following:

- 8.3.2.1. Complete identification of the cable and connection points including its approximate length;
- 8.3.2.2. Resistance reading;
- 8.3.2.3. The approximate average cable temperature.
- 8.3.3. No electrical systems will be energized until the master copy of its test record is approved by the Engineer.

9. MEDIUM VOLTAGE CABLES

9.1. General:

- 9.1.1. The Contractor shall give all medium voltage cables a high potential test in compliance with the cable manufacturers specifications, after all splices and potheads or cable terminations have been made.
- 9.1.2. The medium voltage cables shall be given a complete dielectric absorption test before and after the high potential test. The cable test shall be performed prior to connections to the electrical equipment at either end.
- 9.1.3. The Contractor shall supply all instruments for testing.

9.2. Test Procedures:

- 9.2.1. Medium voltage stress cone type terminations or potheads shall remain intact but testing shall not include any bus work beyond the pothead or stress termination.
- 9.2.2. Cable continuity and phase identification shall be checked.
- 9.2.3. In setting up the test set special safety precautions should be taken regarding grounding of the test equipment. The test set, it's voltmeter and the cable shield should be grounded at the same ground.
- 9.2.4. All 4 core cables shall be tested between one conductor and ground with the other conductors and the metallic shield, metallic sheath or armour grounded to the same ground. Each conductor to be tested in this manner.
- 9.2.5. All single conductor cables shall also be tested between one conductor and ground with the other conductor in the same conduit grounded.
- 9.2.6. Each cable is to be given a full dielectric absorption test as herein specified with a suitable motor driven or electronic megger. The readings taken shall be recorded in the test record.
- 9.2.7. The dielectrical absorption megger test shall be applied for a long enough duration to fully charge the cable. Megger readings shall be taken every fifteen (15) seconds during the first three (3) minutes and at one (1) minute intervals thereafter. The test shall continue until three (3) equal readings one (1) minute apart are obtained. The cable may then be considered to be fully charged.
- 9.2.8. All cables should have approximately the same megohm reading. In the event that a cable shows an appreciably lower resistance value than the others in the same conduit or cable run, this condition shall be discussed with the Engineer prior to the application of the high potential test.
- 9.2.9. After an acceptable megger test, the Contractor shall give the cables a direct current (DC) high potential test. The test potential shall be 80% of the factory test voltage for 15 minutes. The test voltages shall be applied gradually during the first minutes in five equal steps. Leakage current readings shall be taken at each voltage increment, and at one (1) minute intervals after full test voltage has been applied for the remainder of the test. After completion of the test, cables shall be discharged slowly. No test will be accepted where there is an appreciable increase in leakage current throughout the test.

9.2.10. Cables shall not be subjected to more than one (1) high potential test without approval of the Engineer. During these tests a man shall be stationed at each point where the cable has exposed connections.

9.2.11. The successful high potential test shall be immediately followed by another megger test as heretofore specified.

9.3. Acceptance:

9.3.1. The cable must withstand the specified high voltage without an appreciable increase in leakage current.

9.3.2. Final acceptance will also depend on satisfactory results of the two megger tests. The results of the final megger test should reasonably parallel those of the first megger test and should show no evidence of permanent injury to the cable caused by the high voltage test.

9.3.3. Complete and accurate records of all megger and accompanying high potential tests shall be made. The records shall include the following:-

9.3.3.1. Complete identification of the cable including its approximate length;

9.3.3.2. Megger readings vs time data;

9.3.3.3. High potential and leakage current readings vs time data;

9.3.3.4. The approximate average cable temperature.

9.3.4. No cable shall be energized until the master copy of its test record is approved by the Engineer.

10. LOW VOLTAGE POWER CABLES

10.1. General:

10.1.1. All wires and cables shall be tested for continuity. Except for 60 volt services and below, all wires and cables shall be given a megger test.

10.1.2. All cable connections must pass visual inspections for workmanship and conformance with standard practice.

10.2. Test Procedure:

10.2.1. Continuity shall be checked by means of a DC test device using bell or buzzer.

- 10.2.2. Bus tie cables shall be meggered before connections to buses are made.
- 10.2.3. Each 400 volt service cable from substations shall be meggered with the cable connected to the switch gear with the corresponding breaker racked in and open. Connections at the other end of each of these cables shall be as follows:-
 - 10.2.3.1. Cables to individual motors shall be disconnected from the motor for initial tests, and followed by cables connected to motors as per specification for rotating equipment;
 - 10.2.3.2. Cables to control centres shall be connected to the control centre main breaker with breaker in the open position.
- 10.2.4. Minimum megger readings shall be 1 Me 6 ohm.
- 10.2.5. The megger test must be held until the reading reaches a constant value. For 400 volt cables the cable megger test shall be held until three (3) equal readings, each one (1) minute apart, are obtained.
- 10.2.6. A 1000 volt motor-driven or electronic megger with a value of at least twice that of the RMS voltage shall be used on all service conductors.
- 10.3. Acceptance:
 - 10.3.1. Minimum megger requirements must be met.
 - 10.3.2. Any cable having a megger reading 50% lower than average, even though meeting minimum requirements, shall await further instructions from the Engineer as to drying or other treatment to be given the cable prior to acceptance.
 - 10.3.3. Complete and accurate records of all tests and inspections shall be made.

11. MEDIUM VOLTAGE SWITCH GEAR AND CIRCUIT BREAKERS

- 11.1. General:
 - 11.1.1. All switch gear shall be given operational tests. This shall include mechanical operation, as well as operation by control circuits, relays and tripping devices. All breakers and busbars shall be given a megger test.
- 11.2. Test Procedures:
 - 11.2.1. Megger tests on the medium voltage bus shall be applied between each phase separately and ground with other phases tied to ground. All breakers shall be racked-out.

- 11.2.2. In addition each breaker shall be given a megger test in the racked-out and closed position. Megger tests shall be applied between each phase to ground and to each other phase.
- 11.2.3. A suitable motor driven or electronic megger shall be used. Each test shall be held until a constant reading is obtained. Minimum test values shall be as specified in specifications.
- 11.2.4. All test readings shall be recorded.
- 11.2.5. All circuit breakers shall be operated through at least three (3) open-close-open cycles in both the rack-in and test positions by manual operation and by control circuits from each control point. All indication lights, annunciators, alarms and targets shall be observed to determine correct operation and breaker mechanism shall be observed for correct alignment, freedom of binding and good contact. All breakers shall be checked for ease of rack-in and rack-out and checked to determine that the breaker cannot be moved out of operation position while the breaker is closed.
- 11.2.6. The interchangeability of the circuit breakers shall be demonstrated.
- 11.2.7. PT and CT data shall be recorded and PT and CT circuits shall be checked with a multi-tester.
- 11.2.8. Protective relays shall be adjusted and calibrated with an injection type test arrangement (multi-amp or equal). Results shall be recorded and the co-ordination of the protective relaying shall be proved.
- 11.2.9. After initial energization, switch gear shall be checked for correct phase sequence.
- 11.3. Acceptance:
 - 11.3.1. Minimum megger requirements must be met;
 - 11.3.2. Proper mechanical and electrical operation of switch gear must be assured;
 - 11.3.3. Correct protective relaying operation must be proven;
 - 11.3.4.** Complete and accurate records of all tests and inspections shall be made.

12. POWER TRANSFORMERS

- 12.1. General:
 - 12.1.1. Before testing, all transformers shall be inspected for cleanliness, damage, moisture (blue coloured silica gel), oil leaks and phase identification. Each transformer winding shall be given megger tests.

12.1.2. Oil filled transformers shall have the oil checked for dielectric strength.

12.1.3. Accessories and auxiliary circuits to switchgear and alarm panels shall be checked.

12.2. Test Procedures:

12.2.1. Transformer windings shall be meggered with cables disconnected. (The cables have to be disconnected anyhow for cable high potential tests). See clause 9.0.

12.2.2. The 400 volt connection to the switchgear does not have to be opened, but the secondary isolator shall be racked out.

12.2.3. The transformer neutral has to be disconnected from ground.

12.2.4. When meggering the primary side, the secondary winding has to be grounded and vice versa.

12.2.5. The minimum values of the specified megger tests shall be as specified in the standard specification.

12.2.6. All 2500 V megger tests shall be held at least five (5) minutes and until three (3) consecutive equal readings one (1) minute apart are obtained. Readings shall be taken every thirty (30) seconds during the first two (2) minutes and every minute thereafter. 1000 V Megger readings must be held until the reading reaches a constant value and until three (3) consecutive equal readings one (1) minute apart are obtained.

12.2.7. The oil samples for the dielectric strength test shall be taken from the bottom of the transformer tank and tested in accordance with SABS Specifications.

12.2.8. Oil temperature indicator, level gauge and pressure relief devices must be manually actuated to check operation of auxiliary circuits.

12.2.9. To check the Bucholz relay, air shall be injected at the test connection.

12.3. Acceptance:

12.3.1. Minimum megger requirements must be met.

12.3.2. Oil dielectric strength shall be above the minimum specified by the manufacturer.

12.3.3. Auxiliary circuits shall be fully operational.

13. LOW VOLTAGE SWITCH GEAR

13.1. General:

- 13.1.1. The 400 volt switch gear bus shall be given a phase-to phase and phase-to-ground megger test.
- 13.1.2. All switch gear, relays and control devices shall be given complete operational tests to show that the equipment performs all design functions and meets design and equipment procurement specifications.

13.2. Test Procedures:

- 13.2.1. With transformer secondary breaker and load breakers open, all current transformers shorted, all potential transformer fuses removed and all 400 volt feeder breaker load terminals grounded, the 400 volt bus shall be given a phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground megger test.
- 13.2.2. Megger tests on the 400 volt bus shall be applied between each phase and ground with phases not under test also grounded.
- 13.2.3. All circuit breakers shall be operated through at least three (3) open-close-open cycles in both the rack-in and test position by manual operation and by control circuits from each control point (draw out breakers only). All indicating lights, annunciators, and breaker mechanisms shall be observed for correct alignment, freedom of binding and good contact. Draw out breakers shall be checked for ease of rack-in and rack-out and checked to determine that the breaker cannot be moved out of operating position while the breaker is closed.
- 13.2.4. PT and CT data shall be recorded and PT and CT circuits shall be checked with a multi-tester.
- 13.2.5. Protective relays shall be adjusted and calibrated with an injection type test arrangement (multi-amp or equal). Results shall be recorded and the co-ordination of the protective relaying shall be proved.
- 13.2.6. After initial energization, switch gear shall be checked for correct phase sequence.

13.3. Acceptance:

- 13.3.1. Minimum megger requirements must be met.
- 13.3.2. Proper mechanical and electrical operation of switch gear must be assured.
- 13.3.3. Correct protective relaying operation must be proven.

- 13.3.4. Complete and accurate records of all tests and inspections shall be made.

14. ROTATING EQUIPMENT - 400V AND LOWER

14.1. General:

- 14.1.1. All rotating equipment, large and small, rated 400 volt and lower shall pass a minimum megger reading at room temperature. Any machine not passing this test shall be dried and retested until it either passes or is found unsatisfactory.
- 14.1.2. Prior to testing, all rotating equipment shall be inspected for cleanliness, damages, moisture, alignment, proper lubrication, oil leaks and phase identification.
- 14.1.3. For motors fed from main control panels or motor control centres, the setting of the protective equipment shall be checked.
- 14.1.4. For motors fed directly from 400 volt, switchgear setting of the protective relays is covered by clause 13.0.

14.2. Test Procedures:

- 14.2.1. The circuit breaker is to be racked in, but in the open position. Where magnetic contractors are used, the contactor shall be in the open position so that the section of conductor between the contactor and terminals is included in the test. Control circuit conductors shall be isolated.
- 14.2.2. Megger tests shall be applied between all phases tied together and ground.
- 14.2.3. Megger tests shall be taken with the motor winding temperature at room temperature.
- 14.2.4. All 400 volt motor cables shall be tested before connections are made at the motor in accordance with clause 10.0. Megger tests for each 400 volt motor shall include the cables feeding it.
- 14.2.5. A motor-driven or electronic megger with a service voltage of at least twice the RMS voltage shall be used on all motors.
- 14.2.6. Minimum megger readings shall be 1 Meg ohms.
- 14.2.7. The megger test must be held until the reading reaches a constant value and until three (3) consecutive equal readings one (1) minute apart are obtained.

- 14.2.8. For motors fed from main control panels or motor control centres, overload- and instantaneous over-current protection has to be set to suit the particular drives.
- 14.2.9. After successful performance of mechanical and insulation tests and after the electrical starter protection have been adjusted, the motor may be "bumped" to check for proper rotation.
- 14.3. Acceptance:
 - 14.3.1. All rotating equipment must pass the megger insulation tests as specified and satisfy all representatives as to cleanliness and neatness of the installation.
 - 14.3.2. Complete and accurate records of all tests shall be made. Final acceptance of rotating equipment cannot be made until the equipment is operated during hot commissioning. The equipment shall prove proper rotation, lubrication, alignment and freedom from excessive vibration to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

15. COLD COMMISSIONING

- 15.1. The programmable logic control system shall only be tested once the LV switchboard and other control panels have been tested in the manual mode and been provisionally accepted by the Engineer.
- 15.2. The control system shall firstly be tested DRY, i.e. all motor fuses shall be removed or circuit breakers shall be in the OPEN positions.
- 15.3. All plant/external inputs to the PLC shall be individually checked in the field or motor control centre by operating the required field limit switch, relays etc. and checked on the programmer monitor if the status indication of the correct input reference alters.
- 15.4. All plant/external outputs shall be checked individually by forcing the PLC output coil by means of the programming unit and checking the field, motor control or mimic display panel if the correct relay, indication lamp or contactor has operated.
- 15.5. A signed test record showing all input/ output references and reference to which field, motor control centre or mimic panel device was initiated or was operated shall be made and handed to the Engineer before the second part of the DRY test commences.
- 15.6. The second part of the DRY test shall be by carrying out drive selections, route start ups and route stops for all possible drives as listed. All inputs which cannot be present because of the absence of any plant movement shall be simulated by a plant input simulator to be provided by the Contractor.

- 15.7. Upon completion of the tests, a signed test record showing all route selections, starts and stops simulated for every route and a list of all simulated inputs/outputs used shall be made and handed to the Engineer.
- 15.8. The Contractor shall then call upon the Engineer to witness a repetition of all previous DRY tests.

16. HOT COMMISSIONING

- 16.1. Commissioning of the whole installation shall not commence until all work which is essential for safe operation has been completed.
- 16.2. First, the electrical equipment and circuitry shall be checked and tested in each Motor Control Board and shall be rendered "healthy" and fully operational before any other part of the installation is commissioned.
- 16.3. The settings of all protective, instrument and timing devices are to be correctly based on the manufacturer's characteristic curves.
- 16.4. The operation of all equipment and motors shall be tested on the "manual" sequence first prior to attempting "automatic" sequence control.
- 16.5. Commissioning shall follow the electrical testing procedures necessary prior to start-up of the equipment.
- 16.6. The start-up of each system or plant shall be done in the presence of the authorized representatives of the machine suppliers, the mechanical contractors, the electrical suppliers of the boards, the Electrical Contractor and the Engineer, unless otherwise arranged by the Engineer.
- 16.7. During hot commissioning the temperature rise of all motors will be calculated using the resistance method.
- 16.8. For a period determined elsewhere in this document, after completion of the foregoing operations, the Electrical Contractor shall arrange for a competent representative to remain on site to test-run the installation to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

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