

Cable Testing and Diagnostics, Medium Voltage

4.5 Days, 3.6 CEUs

Medium voltage cable systems are the backbone of electrical systems worldwide, yet often they are the most ignored part of the power system – **until there is a failure**. Cable systems today have higher failure rates than ever before due to aging, environmental stresses and improper installation. While the ability to efficiently locate faults can greatly reduce downtime, an effective cable testing program can help technicians in prioritizing cable repair prior to failure. This helps prevent unplanned outages, equipment damage and electrical accidents and ultimately reducing costs.

This hands-on course is intended for new or experienced electricians and technicians that install, maintain, repair or troubleshoot 5-35 kV solid dielectric power cables.

Pre-Requisites:

The student should have some field experience and basic knowledge of AC/DC electricity.

Lab and Classroom Attire:

AVO is committed to the personal safety of each participant and requires long pants and ANSI rated "safety toe" work shoes for lab activities. Lecture courses may involve a tour of a work or shop area and for this reason open toe shoes and shorts are not considered appropriate attire for classroom.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course and lab, the participants will demonstrate by attaining a minimum average grade of 80% (between lab practice and final exam), that he/she is able to:

- Identify medium voltage cable components and causes of failure.
- Utilize safe work practices for cable testing per OSHA and industry consensus standards.
- Interpret current industry cable testing standards and procedures.
- Perform and analyze results of:
 - Insulation Resistance Tests (DAR and PI).
 - Withstand Tests (DC, AC & VLF).
 - Diagnostic Field Tests (Tan Delta & PD).
- Outline the benefits gained by establishing a Conditioned Based Cable Maintenance Program.

SCOPE

Day 1*

I. Introduction

II. Introduction To Medium Voltage Cable Testing

- A. Purpose of Power Cables
- B. Cable Components & Operation
- C. Cable Insulation
- D. Types of Tests Performed on Medium Voltage Cables
- E. General Guidelines for Cable Testing Safety

III. Cable Testing Standards

- A. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- B. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- C. International Electrical Testing Association (NETA)
- D. Association of Edison Illumination Companies
- E. Insulated Cable Engineers Association (ICEA)
- F. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- G. American Society for Testing of Materials (ASTM)

H. International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC)

I. International Council on Large Electrical Systems (CIGRE)

IV. Insulation Resistance Testing (IR)

- A. Safety Precautions
- B. Theory of Test
- C. Evaluating Resistance Measurement

Day 2

V. Field Tests (Withstand Tests)

- A. Safety Precautions
- B. Voltage Withstand Tests
- C. Alternating Current (AC Line Frequency) Withstand Test
- D. Very Low Frequency (VLF) Withstand Test
- E. Test Equipment Connections
- F. Direct Current (DC) Withstand Test
- G. Current Avalanche
- H. Other Unusual Currents
- I. Ionization Control
- J. Voltage Regulation
- K. Insulation Resistance
- L. Testing Intervals and Values

VI. Field Tests (Withstand Tests)

- A. D.A.R., P.I. and I.R. labs
- B. V.L.F. Withstand testing lab
- C. D.C. Withstand testing lab

Day 3

VII. Field Tests (Diagnostics Tests)

- A. Dissipation Factor Testing
- B. Analyzing Tan Delta Test Results
- C. Test Area Safety
- D. Interpreting Test Data
- E. Technical Analysis
- F. PD Test Equipment Set-Up
- G. Interpreting Test Data
- H. Other Cable Tests
- I. Shield Testing

Day 4

VIII. Testing Labs

- A. VLF Tan Delta lab
- B. Partial Discharge lab

Day 5 (half day)

IX. Condition Based Maintenance of Medium Voltage Cables

"Notes from Underground"

X. Conclusion

- A. Review and Test

*Class scheduling times may vary based on discussions and size of class

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