

NEDeRS®, DEFECT PLANT REPORTING SCHEME

1 INTRODUCTION

Plant and equipment is designed to give satisfactory service throughout its expected lifetime. However, it is a fact that failures do occur at various stages during this period. Such failure is at best a source of inconvenience requiring resources to put right. In some cases the failure may involve an actual or potential dangerous accident and in others it may necessitate the imposition of operational restrictions affecting other units of the same type.

The dissemination of equipment failure information can help to prevent a recurrence of a failure. The collection of equipment failure data enables analysis to be made which can be used to highlight points of weakness in the specification, design or use of equipment and is an important first step towards improving the reliability of equipment and reducing failures. This is of benefit to both the manufacturer and the user.

It is therefore important to maintain an adequate flow of information about equipment failures and remedies between users, to keep the equipment supplier informed.

The scheme is not intended to replace the normal purchaser / manufacturer relationship but to pool the information and knowledge of users of equipment in widespread use.

Reporting a Defect under this Scheme does not remove or replace any legal requirements for example under the H & SAWA or EAW Regulations.

This scheme was developed from the scheme run by the Electricity Council since 1975.

2 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Scheme is to combine experience of users regarding Defects occurring on electrical equipment and on associated operational apparatus, and to enable appropriate action to be taken following such a Defect to:

- i. Prevent further dangerous conditions arising.
- ii. Prevent further failures from the Defect.
- iii. Identify the most cost-effective remedial measures.
- iv. Identify necessary amendments to existing preventative measures or maintenance procedures.
- v. Keep standardisation bodies and manufacturers informed about features of existing designs which have caused problems.

Defects on equipment are reportable to this Scheme from the time the equipment is delivered until it is finally withdrawn from service; reports will therefore include Defects discovered during inspection of items after delivery, in commissioning and during maintenance.

3 DEFINITIONS

- DIN - Dangerous Incident Notice (**not for general circulation to the manufacturer**)
- SOP - Suspension of Operating Practice (automatically circulated to appropriate manufacturer)
- NEDeR - National Equipment Defect Reports (automatically circulated to appropriate manufacturer)
- Defect - A potential DIN or NEDeR that is not distributed to other members of the scheme or manufacturers, but held on the database for reference.

For the Scheme to be effective it is important that all Defects are correctly and adequately reported.

4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

The initiating company shall report the incidence of an equipment failure causing a dangerous or potentially dangerous condition (DIN) by using the WEB based NEDeRS reporting scheme and selecting the new DIN option. It is important that information contained within DINs is not reported to manufacturers by notification recipients, without consent from the ENA.

When a company initiates a Suspension of Operating Practice (SOP) then members should use the WEB based NEDeRS and select the new SOP option. This information will be passed onto the appropriate manufacturer by the ENA.

Other defects should be reported as soon as sufficient evidence is available to establish that a Defect exists. In these cases the users should create a new NEDeR by submitting it on the WEB based NEDeRS reporting scheme. This information will be passed onto the appropriate manufacturer by the ENA.

5 REVISIONS, ADDITIONS AND UPDATES

Further information including incidences of further failures relating to a report issued may be submitted at any time by the Initiating Company. The Initiating Company will notify the Energy Networks Association of the causes of the Defects when these have been identified, of significant developments in the investigations related to the Defect and finally of the remedial and preventative measures proposed.

6 OTHER REPORTS

There may be occasions when reports other than those submitted under the Scheme by an initiating Company are considered to be relevant to the Scheme. The Energy Networks Association will consider the need for such reports to be circulated to all participating Companies.

7 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Full members comprise of the Distribution Network Operators, Other ENA members are Associate Companies and all other subscribers are Affiliate-members. Affiliate members are not informed of the initiating company or substation location when an incident is reported, but all other information in the scheme is available.

8 TYPES OF ACCESS

The scheme has three classes of access

- Standard User:** Can issue and amend DIN's, SOP's etc. and will receive copies of reports raised by other scheme members.
- Read Only User:** Can view reports online, search database and other functions. Can opt to receive copies of reports. Cannot post reports.
- Company Administrator:** Has the same access rights as a Standard user plus the ability to add or delete users from their own organization and update company information.

9 Further Information

Further information can be obtained from:

NEDeRS Scheme Administrator
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