

Instructions

Instructions for the Operation Controller

Document ID: [SDOK-515-54](#), revision: 7.0

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Verified: 30.12.2024 by [Jon Halvor Holtet](#)

Approved: 30.12.2024 by [Endre Johan Hoel](#)

Planned review by: 30.12.2027

Keywords: El-sikkerhet

Based on the Norwegian document SDOK-515-10

1 Governing policy and legislation

These Instructions for the Operation Controller are subject to [policy sikkerhet](#) (Safety Policy). They are a supplement to, and superceded by [FSE 2006](#) (Safety regulations related to the maintenance and operation of electrical installations) which is pursuant to the [Lov om tilsyn med elektriske anlegg og elektrisk utstyr](#) (Act relating to the Inspection of Electrical Installations and Electrical Equipment).

2 Purpose and validity

The purpose of these Instructions is to ensure a high level of safety during work on or in the vicinity of Statnett electrical installations and during their operation, by requiring adequate planning of all activities and the implementation of necessary safety practices to avoid any risk to life, health, or property.

These Instructions apply to all high-voltage installations where Statnett has operational responsibility.

3 Intended audience

All Statnett employees and external personnel who are authorised Operation Controllers on electrical installations where Statnett has operational responsibility, and personnel who are conducting tasks ordered by the Operation Controller, according to these Instructions.

4 Definitions

Operation Controller: Person appointed to have responsibility for ensuring that all necessary switching operations in high-voltage installations are conducted safely.

Work Controller: Person appointed to have responsibility for electrical safety at the worksite.

Installation Manager: Person appointed by the owner/manager to carry out and be responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the electrical installations.

Switching Operator¹: A person who carries out the switching operation following orders from the Operation Controller (ref. guidelines to § 11 in FSE).

5 Operation Controller

5.1 System Duty Officer at the Northern and Southern Regional Centres

5.1.1 Following applicable routines, a System Duty Officer is appointed at the relevant regional centre. The Primary Duty Officer also takes on the role of Operation Controller and has authority to conduct switching operations. The System Duty Officer may delegate switching tasks to another authorized Operation Controller.

¹ See also section 4.12 in electrical safety procedural works: Switching Operator.

5.2 Switching

- 5.2.1 The Operation Controller shall plan and normally conduct all switching operations himself/herself. For complex switching operations, a written switching plan should be used, either in the form of previously defined lists of operations, or a dedicated switching plan for the operation concerned.
- 5.2.2 When switching operations take place at the local substation, all instructions and switching must be recorded in the duty journal. The Operation Controller must give each switching order as a spoken order, and the person carrying out the order must repeat it aloud and write it down before carrying it out. If the other party fails to repeat an order, the Operation Controller must ask that it be repeated. A switching order must comprise details of the function identification tag on the breaker and the word "IN" or "OUT". When the switching task has been completed, the person who has carried out the order must confirm this to the Operation Controller by stating the breaker's function identification tag and new position. Persons who perform switchings locally shall have authorization Switching Operator for the substation.
- 5.2.3 If it is not possible to operate a breaker from the control board or display, substation personnel must immediately contact the Operation Controller before continuing the switching operation, cf. section 5.4 Switching from an unsafe position and section 5.5 Non-interlocking operations.

5.3 Switching and other measures in association with work on or in the vicinity of earthed and short-circuited installations

- 5.3.1 For operations not involving remote-controlled substations, the Operation Controller must plan all switching operations with the substation personnel, or the person appointed as Work Controller, and ensure that all switching operations that are necessary before work can start, have been completed as specified in section 5.2.2.
- 5.3.2 The Operation Controller must ensure that disconnection and, if necessary, terminal earthing has been carried out.
- 5.3.2.1 When terminal earthing is performed by use of mobile earthing equipment, a Work Controller must be appointed when established and dismantled. Local voltage testing with use of approved voltage tester is mandatory, and there must be two persons present. At least one of these persons must hold Work Controller authorization (the Switching Supervisor must check this). For the other person, an access permit to the installation is required (ref. [Instructions for training/access/safety cards to Statnett's electrical installations](#)) and a relevant trade certificate or relevant approval for the task by the Directorate for Civil Protection is mandatory. If the Operation Controller carries out manual terminal earthing, this must be recorded and checked in the electronic duty journal. At a local level, the earthing equipment must be labelled with the words: "Manual terminal earthing – may only be removed by order from the Operation Controller". In order to make manual terminal earthing visible in the system control centre, Work Controller must be appointed as long as manual terminal earthing is established.
- 5.3.3 The Operation Controller is responsible for providing **labelling** on all disconnectors, circuit breakers, and/or disconnecting circuit breakers (DCBs), and terminal earthing affected by switching orders. Labelling must be performed at regional control centres and all places in the substation control room from where switching operations may be carried out (on screen, control/selecter switches etc.). In addition, motor fuses that are disconnected as protection against reconnection/disconnection (cf. section 5.3.4)

must be labelled. Persons who perform labelling shall have authorization Switching Operator for the substation.

- 5.3.4 The Operation Controller is responsible for **preventing** reconnection by blocking all disconnectors and DCBs that could become energized, either by removing motor fuses (these must be labelled, cf. section 5.3.3), or shutting off the supply of compressed air, or locking service devices, or blocking the operating mechanism. In a similar manner, terminal earthing must be blocked against disconnection. When locking DCB switches these must be physically locked in the disconnected position by means of a lock or splint. Persons who perform preventing reconnection shall have authorization Switching Operator for the substation.
- 5.3.5 The Operation Controller is responsible for ensuring terminal earthing and disconnectors are **inspected** (visually), and for obtaining feedback on the inspection. When preparing for inspection of DCBs, the Operation Controller must order the person conducting the inspection to check for normal GIS-pressure at all three breaker poles. If the pressure is too low in one or more of the breaker poles, the breaker is **not** to be considered disconnected (ref.5.3.2.1). Persons who perform inspection shall have authorization Switching Operator for the substation.
- 5.3.6 The Operation Controller is responsible for verbally appointing a Work Controller to carry out the work. When appointing a Work Controller, the Operation Controller must inform the Work Controller of all safety measures that have been implemented (disconnection, labelling, safeguards against reconnection, terminal earthing).
- 5.3.7 The Operation Controller is responsible for ensuring that a log is kept of all connections, messages and appointments that are related to the task.
- 5.3.7.1 The Operation Controller must record the number of portable earthing devices the Work Controller intends to use in connection with the work.
- 5.3.7.2 The Work Controller must state the number of portable earthing devices that have been removed. The Operation Controller must then check that this tallies with the number recorded when the Operation Controller was appointed.
- 5.3.8 The Operation Controller is responsible for ensuring that all safety measures (implemented by the Operation Controller) are reversed when the Work Controller has declared the operation completed and has issued notification that the installation will be reenergised. Persons who perform reversal of safety measures locally in the substation (labelling, prevention, inspection) shall have authorization Switching Operator for the substation.
- 5.3.9 The Operation Controller is responsible for ensuring that the installation is reenergised in a suitable manner, without any risk to persons or property.

5.4 Switching from an unsafe position.

- 5.4.1 Switches must be deenergised on both sides during all switching operations carried out from a position where the pressure increase, should a short circuit or switch failure occur, could cause injury². The same applies to work involving outdoor circuit

² Indoor installations that fail to meet the requirements in FEF 2006 §4-7 and § 4-9 with guidelines. Documentation that FEF 2006 § 4-7 and § 4-9 requirements have been met is mandatory if the requirement regarding deenergised switches is not applicable.

breakers. Voltage tests should be carried out to check that the switches are deenergised. The same requirements apply to voltage testing equipment, voltage tests and test personell as those given in 5.3.2.

5.4.2 Two people must always be present during this type of switching work. At least one of these must have Work Controller authorization or specific authorization for the task from the Installation Manager. For the other person, an access permit (ref. [Instructions for training/access/safety cards to Statnett's electrical installations](#)) for the installation and have a relevant trade certificate or relevant approval for the task by the Directorate for Civil Protection is mandatory.

5.4.3 The Operation Controller must check that the correct order of switching operations and corresponding function identification tags has been noted by the person carrying out the switching order.

5.5 Non- interlocking³ operations

5.5.1 If non-interlocked operations with energised components are necessary, a detailed description made locally is required to explain how this is to be carried out.

5.5.2 These detailed instructions must be sent by the relevant Local Area Manager or person he has authorised for approval.

5.5.3 Approved instructions must be sent to the Operation Controller by email.

5.6 Work in the vicinity of a high-voltage installation (not live working)

5.6.1 The Local Area Manager, or other person granted this authority, must appoint a Work Controller for work in the vicinity of a live installation.

5.6.2 The Work Controller is responsible for all safety measures at the work site.

5.6.3 The Operation Controller must not make any test switchings subsequent to a power outage, without first informing the Work Controller.

5.7 Live working

5.7.1 Detailed work procedures must be prepared for live working. These procedures must be approved by the Installation Manager. The presence of approved procedures is to be checked by the Operation Controller.

5.7.2 The Operation Controller must ensure that auto-reclose is blocked at both ends of the line, and that automatic connection and disconnection of reactive devices connected to bus bars at both ends of the line is blocked.

5.7.3 Test switchings following a power outage are not permitted until the Work Controller has been informed.

5.7.4 The Operation Controller must notify the Work Controller before doing manual switching work on associated busbars at each end of the line. Generators and

³ Entails removing mechanical locking or other construction-type safety locking set up to prevent undesirable situations developing in connection with switching operations in a high-voltage installation.

reactive devices with automatic connection and disconnection functions connected to busbars at both ends of the line can be synchronized to the grid or disconnected from the grid.

5.7.5 The Operation Controller should appoint a Work Controller for the operation in accordance with [Instructions for the high-voltage Work Controller in case of Live working](#).

5.7.6 The Work Controller is responsible for all safety measures at the work site.

5.7.7 The Operation Controller is responsible for ensuring that the safety measures mentioned in sections 5.7.2, 5.7.3 and 5.7.4 are reversed or dismantled following notification from the Work Controller that live working has ceased.

5.8 Notification of an earth fault on the grid

5.8.1 The Operation Controller must notify the Work Controller who is appointed by the Operation Controller and signed in to the installation if an earth fault is registered on the grid.

5.9 Notification of lightning activity on the grid

5.9.1 The Operation Controller must notify the Work Controller who is appointed by the Operation Controller and signed in to the installation if lightning is registered on the grid.

5.10 Notification of pressure drop in secured GIS- and DCB switches

5.10.1 The Operation Controller must report to the Work Controller who is appointed by the Operation Controller and signed in to the installation if a pressure drop is registered in secured GIS- and DCB switches.

6 Abstinance from intoxicants

The person appointed as Operation Controller must agree to refrain from consuming alcohol or other intoxicants during the 8 hours prior to starting work.

7 Confirmation of compliance

Responsibility for checking compliance with instructions lies with the document holder and approving body.

The position of Installation Manager includes authority to draw up and approve work procedures, guidelines and instructions in areas covered by electrical safety in accordance with [policy sikkerhet](#) (Safety Policy – Norwegian document only).

8 Enclosures and references

References:

- [Policy sikkerhet](#) (Safety Policy – Norwegian document only) (SDOK-856-6)
- [Instructions for the high-voltage Work Controller](#) (SDOK-515-55)
- [Instruction for training/access/safety cards to Statnett's electrical installations](#) (SDOK-515-60)
- [Instructions for the high-voltage Work Controller in case of Live working](#) (SDOK-515-59)
- [Instruks for stedfortreder for driftsleder/driftsansvarlig](#) (Instruction regarding deputy Installation Manager – Norwegian document only) (SDOK-515-21)
- [Electrical safety procedural works](#) (SDOK-515-73)
- [Safety regulations related to the maintenance and operation of electrical installations](#) (FSE 2006) (www.dsb.no)
- [Lov om tilsyn med elektriske anlegg og elektrisk utstyr](#) (Act relating to the Inspection of Electrical Installations and Electrical Equipment – only in Norwegian) (www.lovdatab.no)

9 Version log

Valid as of	Revision classification (New/Updated/Vocabulary/None)	Description of important changes
01.01.2025	Updated	Introduced the term Switching Operator from FSE, as a replacement for approved On-Call Duty Officer (GP), for personnel who carries out the switching operation and MSI following orders from the Operation Controller. 5.3.5 and 5.10: Replaced SF6 with GIS. 5.8, 5.9 and 5.10: Inserted when the Operation Controller must notify the Work Controller.

Instructions

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Revision log SDOK-515-54:

Revision		Approved	Approved by	Description
7.0	Show changes	30.12.2024	Endre Johan Hoel	See the version log
6.0	Show changes	02.01.2024	Arnfinn Granheim	See the version log
5.0	Show changes	02.01.2024	Arnfinn Granheim	See the version log
4.0	Show changes	30.12.2022	Arnfinn Granheim	See the version log
3.0	Show changes	29.12.2021	Arnfinn Granheim	See the version log
2.0	Show changes	29.12.2021	Arnfinn Granheim	See the version log

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