

Substation Transformers

Substation Transformer Installation, Operation
and Maintenance Instructions and Parts
Replacement Information

Service Information

S210-15-10



Figure 1.
Open-Type Substation Transformer



Figure 2.
Unit-Type Substation Transformer

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SAFETY INFORMATION

Following is important safety information. For safe installation and operation of this equipment, be sure to read and understand all cautions and warnings.

Hazard Statement Definitions


This manual contains two types of hazard statements:


 **WARNING: Refers to hazards or unsafe practices which could result in severe personal injury, or death, and equipment damage.**


 **CAUTION: Refers to hazards or unsafe practices which could result in damage to equipment or personal injury.**


Safety Instructions


Following are general caution and warning statements that apply to this equipment. Additional statements related to specific tasks and procedures are located through-out the manual.

 **WARNING:** Before installing, operating, maintaining or testing this equipment, carefully read and understand the contents of this manual. Improper operation, handling or maintenance can result in death, severe personal injury and equipment damage.

 **WARNING:** This equipment is not intended to protect human life. Follow all locally approved procedures and safety practices when installing or operating this equipment. Failure to comply may result in death, severe personal injury and equipment damage.

 **WARNING:** Hazardous voltage. Contact with high voltage will cause death or severe personal injury. Follow all locally approved safety procedures when working around high voltage lines and equipment.

 **WARNING:** A transformer must never be opened or serviced while it is energized, ungrounded or connected to the system. Tampering with the covers or cover seals of a transformer that has not been de-energized may result in death, severe personal injury and equipment damage.

 **WARNING:** This equipment requires routine inspection and maintenance to ensure proper operation. If it is not maintained it may fail to operate properly. Improper operation can cause equipment damage and possible personal injury.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Introduction

This manual has been prepared to assist competent technicians in the installation, operation and service of primary or secondary unit- or open-type substation transformers.

Substation transformers are designed for installation on three-phase systems. All units are constructed for indoor or outdoor mounting on a concrete pad with high and low voltage cables entering operating compartments through enclosed sidewall mounted bushings (unit-type transformers) or through cover or sidewall mounted bushings (open-type transformers).

Although every effort has been made to anticipate normal installation, operation and servicing problems, these instructions do not cover all possible variations in equipment or application conditions. All possible installation, operation or service contingencies are not discussed. If additional information is required, contact a factory representative.

It is important that personnel using these instructions be fully acquainted with industry accepted high and low voltage safe operating practices and procedures. These instructions are not intended as a substitute for proper training or adequate experience in the safe operation of the equipment described.

Acceptance and Initial Inspection

It is important that a thorough inspection of the transformer be made *before* it is unloaded from the carrier.

1. Insure that *all* parts listed on the bill of lading are present.
2. Before unloading the transformer, make an inspection to detect any signs of damage or mishandling. Locate any accessory parts that may have been shipped separately.
3. If any damage is detected or shortages are noticed, write a brief description on the freight bill. Normally, the transformer is shipped FOB point of manufacture, and it is the customer's responsibility to file a claim against the carrier. If the transformer was shipped FOB destination, notify your factory representative. He or she will, with the inspector's report, take the necessary steps to file a claim against the carrier.

Handling

For unloading, lifting hooks are provided near the top of the transformer tank. Cable pull angles should not be over 30° from vertical. Otherwise, spreaders should be used to hold the lifting cables apart to avoid any bending of the structure or lifting hooks.



WARNING: Do not attempt to lift the transformer by placing a continuous loop of cable or chain around the unit or lifting lugs. Improper handling can result in death, severe personal injury and equipment damage.

If the transformer cannot be lifted by crane, it may be skidded or moved with rollers. When jacking a transformer to insert rollers underneath it, insure that at least two jacks are used and that two adjacent corners are raised simultaneously and evenly to avoid warping the base. Jacks may be placed *only* at the corners of the transformer base.

Do not place jacks under cooler assemblies, valves, or sheet metal parts. When using rollers, use as many as necessary to distribute the weight uniformly. To pull, attach pulling eyes to the holes in the base at either end of the transformer.

Do not attach pulling lines to moldings or other sheet metal parts of the transformer.

Storage

Whenever possible, the transformer should be stored at its permanent location.

The insulating liquid should be at its proper level and the gas space pressurized to approximately two psig. Then it should be tightly sealed so that no moisture or air can enter the tank. Periodic inspection should determine that the pressure gauge does not remain at zero, and proper liquid level is maintained at all times.

The transformer should not be stored in the presence of corrosive gases (e.g., chlorine). Exterior surfaces of the transformer should be maintained against rust and corrosion.

Before placing a transformer into service after an extended storage time, check fans, alarm and control circuits, and the dielectric strength of the insulating liquid.

INSTALLATION

Location


The transformer should be located on a concrete pad of sufficient strength to support the weight of the unit. The pad must be level. The location of the transformer, whether indoor or outdoor, should provide for adequate accessibility, ventilation and ease of inspection. The transformer should be at least 24 inches from any obstruction. Location in areas of corrosive chemicals should be avoided.


These substation transformers are built to operate at altitudes up to 3300 feet at 30°C average and 40°C maximum ambient, unless otherwise specified. Before operating a standard transformer at higher altitudes, contact your factory representative.

Adequate ventilation must be provided. For indoor installations, room air inlets should be located at floor level; the air outlets should be located as high as the room will permit. The number and size of the air inlets depends upon the rating of the transformer. In general, about 20 square feet each of inlet and outlet area should be provided for each 1000 kVA of transformer capacity. If the ventilation system is adjustable, it should be locked permanently open to avoid overheating of the transformer in case of operator error.

Connections

Connections must be made without placing undue stress on the bushing terminals. Conductors should be securely fastened in place and supported properly, with allowance for expansion and contraction. Make sure that the tap connection is proper for the required voltage. Changes in tap connections must be done **ONLY** with the transformer high voltage and low voltage circuits completely "**DE-ENERGIZED**". Safely verify that there is no voltage present at the terminals.

 **WARNING:** Do not change connections on a transformer that is energized. Ground all circuits before making any transformer connection. Failure to observe precautions when making connections can result in exposure to high voltages, which can cause death, severe personal injury or damage to the equipment.

 **WARNING:** Do not make any connections, except as authorized by the nameplate or schematic. Improper connections can result in severe personal injury and damage to the equipment.

Transformers equipped with an internal terminal board are normally shipped with the higher voltage connected, unless otherwise specified by the customer.

A secure and effective low resistance ground is essential for protection. The transformer must be grounded permanently by connecting a heavy ground cable to the ground pad located at the bottom of the tank. If the transformer is designed for operation in a solidly grounded neutral system, the neutral connection should be solidly and permanently grounded with minimum resistance.



WARNING: Improper grounding may result in personal injury or damage to the equipment.

Lightning arresters are recommended for every transformer installation. Arresters of proper rating should be located as close as possible to the transformer terminations.

When alarm contacts or controls are supplied with the transformer accessories, a connection box may be provided to facilitate termination of the customer's cable or conduit.

Final Inspection

The final inspection can be done in three major steps: Electrical, Internal and External.



WARNING: Do not tamper with interlocks, alarm or control circuits. Doing so can produce unsafe conditions for operators or result in damage to the equipment.

Electrical inspection should determine that:

1. All external connections have been made properly (phasing of connections to terminal bushings, etc.).
2. All connections are tight and secure.
3. All accessory contact circuits are operational.
4. Current transformer circuits, if supplied, have secondaries either shorted or connected through their load.
5. Tap changer is operative and properly positioned.
6. The correct transformer ratio exists for units furnished with internal terminal board.
7. There is no grounding of windings that are not intended to be grounded. A 1000-volt megger test is recommended.
8. There is continuity in all windings.

9. The dielectric strength of the insulating liquid is 30 kV minimum when new. (Refer to section for "Testing Insulating Liquid" in this manual.)
10. The neutral and ground connections have been properly made.

If an internal inspection is required, assure that:

1. There is no evidence of moisture.
2. All available bolted connections are tight.
3. There has been no shifting of any parts or any other damage.

The external inspection should determine that:

1. All scratches have been painted.
2. The bushings are clean.
3. The accessories are operative.
4. There are no tools, or other objects, left on top of the transformer or inside any enclosure.
5. The liquid level is correct.
6. The transformer holds positive pressure.
7. The manhole covers are tightly bolted.
8. All protective covers are closed and bolted tight.
9. The mechanical pressure relief device is reset.



CAUTION: Whenever it is necessary to open a liquid-filled transformer, insure that the liquid temperature is higher than the outside air temperature. Otherwise, internal moisture condensation may occur, which could lead to failure of the transformer.



CAUTION: Before breaking the seal of any handhole, manhole or bushing hole, bleed internal pressure to zero. Seals should not be broken in the presence of fog, rain or snow, or if there is any evidence of condensation on the transformer tank. If even a very slight amount of such moisture enters the transformer tank, it can decrease the dielectric strength of the cooling liquid to dangerously low levels, which can result in damage to the equipment.



CAUTION: Only authorized personnel should be permitted on top of the transformer and every precaution should be taken to avoid dropping objects into the transformer. Workers should not have anything in their pockets (such as pens, pencils, coins, etc.) and their clothing should not have loose metal buttons, badges, buckles, etc. Wristwatches should also be removed. When dropped into the transformer tank, such objects can cause equipment malfunction and damage.

ACCESSORIES

Liquid Level Gauge

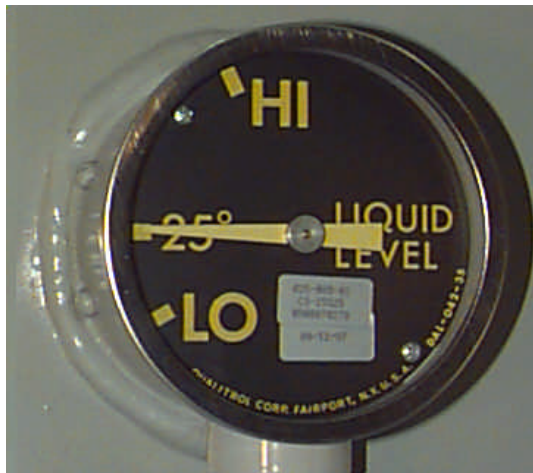


Figure 3.
Liquid Level Gauge

A liquid level indicator is provided to aid in the systematic inspection of the transformer under load. It consists of a float-arm inside the tank, an indicating pointer and a magnetic coupling between the two across a liquid-tight separation.

The gauge may be furnished with SPDT (Single Pole Double Throw) alarm contacts to give a remote annunciation of low liquid level. For contact wiring and terminal points, see the accessory connection diagram furnished with the transformer.

Liquid Temperature Gauge



Figure 4.
Liquid Temperature Gauge

The temperature gauge is furnished to indicate the top liquid temperature in the tank in degrees Centigrade. The temperature-sensitive element is mounted in a leak-proof well, permitting removal of the thermometer without lowering the oil level. The device is furnished with an additional red pointer to show the highest temperature attained since the last reset. To reset the maximum indicator, turn the knob in the center of the dial.

The thermometer can be furnished with two SPDT contacts for a high temperature alarm, for energizing a fan circuit or for a low temperature alarm. For wiring and contact settings, refer to the schematic furnished with the transformer.

Pressure-Vacuum Gauge



Figure 5.
Pressure-Vacuum Gauge

The pressure-vacuum gauge indicates whether the gas space in the tank is under positive or negative pressure. The pressure will vary depending on the transformer temperature. If the transformer is de-energized or operating under light load in low ambients, the pressure may be negative.

NOTE: If the indicator reads zero and does not change under any load condition, the transformer should be checked for a possible leak in the seal.

If sufficient air has been absorbed by the liquid during shipment or storage, the transformer may operate indefinitely in the vacuum range, depending upon the loading conditions. This, in itself, is not cause for concern, provided the pressure vacuum gauge does not remain on zero for any length of time - an indication of a leak.

The unit may be equipped with pressure vacuum switches with two SPDT contacts for remote alarm on positive and negative pressure. For wiring and contact ratings, refer to the schematic furnished with the transformer.

When required, the pressure gauge is furnished with a pressure regulator that will automatically regulate the tank pressure between 7.0 psig positive and 3.0 psig negative. The pressure regulator is fitted with a valve and fitting to take gas samples.

Pressure Relief Device



Figure 6.
Pressure Relief Device

All substation transformers are furnished with a mechanical pressure relief valve (PRV) or pressure relief device (PRD). The cover-mounted PRD consists of a self-resetting, spring-loaded diaphragm and a mechanical operation indicator. Should the tank pressure increase above that for which the device is set, the gas pressure will lift the diaphragm and let the gas escape quickly. Immediately after the pressure returns to normal, the diaphragm will reset and reseal the transformer. A mechanical indicator will protrude vertically. This must be reset manually to indicate subsequent operations.

Contacts are optional. For wiring information, refer to the schematic furnished with the transformer.

Winding Temperature Gauge



Figure 7.
Winding Temperature Gauge

Transformers may be furnished with a winding temperature gauge as optional equipment. A temperature sensitive stem is mounted in a leakproof well, permitting removal of both the instrument and stem without lowering the liquid level. The well is heated by both the surrounding liquid and a heater element which is energized from a current transformer mounted inside the tank to simulate the hot spot winding temperature gradient. The combination of the two temperatures is indicated on the gauge. An additional red pointer is furnished to show the highest temperature attained since the last reset. The maximum indicator is resettable by means of a pushbutton through the bottom of the dial bezel.

The gauge has three separate SPDT switches for fan control and alarm circuits. For wiring the contact settings, refer to the schematic furnished with the transformer.

The equipment is calibrated to indicate the hottest spot of the transformer windings. All contacts are factory set to operate at the temperatures shown in the connection diagram.

If readjustment of the contacts is desired, consult the factory for detailed instruction.

Transformer Cooling Fans

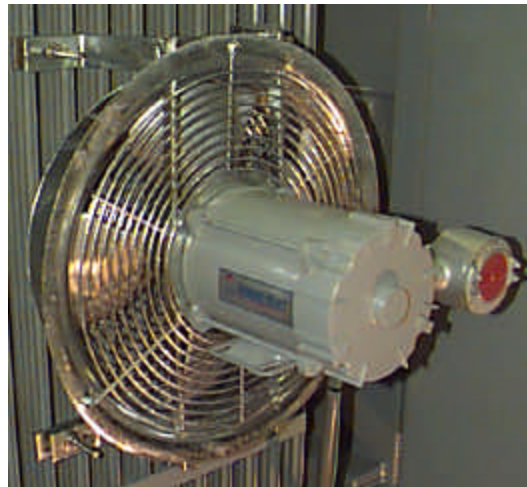


Figure 8.
Transformer Cooling Fan

In order to increase the transformer load without overheating the windings, a set of fans can be furnished as an optional item. Fan control consists of a contact on either the liquid temperature gauge or the winding temperature gauge (when furnished), and "Manual-Auto" control switch.

For continuous run, the switch is turned to the "Manual" position. In the "Auto" position, the fans are controlled by the contacts on the temperature gauge. For contact and temperature settings, refer to the schematic furnished with the transformer.



WARNING: Fan guards are furnished and installed for your protection. Do not remove fan guards or probe into the fan with long objects. Doing so can result in severe personal injury and equipment damage.

Refer to wiring schematic for control equipment supplied.

High Voltage Bushings



Figure 9.
High Voltage Bushing

High voltage leads for ratings 2.4 kV and up are normally brought through the tank end wall using a porcelain bushing. To prevent excessive mechanical loading of the bushing, only flexible connections should be made to the bushing terminal. The bushing should never be used as a structural member to support other current-carrying parts.

Care must be taken in handling the bushing to avoid cracking the porcelain or damaging its surface.

Should it become necessary to replace a bushing or its gasket, proceed as follows:

1. Vent the tank to the atmosphere until pressure is zero.
2. Lower the liquid level to a point below the bushing level.
3. Remove the nuts and washers used to clamp the flange of the bushing.
4. Pull the bushing outward as far as necessary to replace the gasket and/or to unfasten the cable connection at bushing inner end.

Only in rare circumstances will there be insufficient slack in the cable leads to facilitate bushing replacement through the wall. The alternative means of gaining access to the connections is through the manhole.

When reinstalling the bushing, install a new gasket in the gasket recess on the underside of the flange to insure that the gasket is properly seated in the groove. A flat washer and lock washer should be placed between the mounting nut and the flange. After the nuts are finger tight, each one should be tightened to a torque of 60 ± 5 inch pounds. After completion, pressure test the transformer.

When condenser-type bushings are used, supplementary leaflets forming a part of the complete instruction book will be provided.

Low Voltage Bushings



Figure 10.
Low Voltage Bushings

Low voltage leads for ratings in the 1.2 kV Class are normally brought through the tank wall using an indoor bushing. This is a cast resin or porcelain bushing.

The low voltage bushing should not be used as a structural member. As a rule, only flexible connections should be made to any bushing. Avoid rigid connections between the bushing and other bus supports to eliminate thermal expansion forces to the bushing.

If a bushing is damaged and leaking transformer coolant, contact your factory representative for proper repair procedures.

De-energized Tap Changer



Figure 11.

De-energized Tap Changer

The tap changer provides a means of changing the voltage ratio of a de-energized transformer without breaking the transformer seal. It is operated by means of a rotatable handle located on the side of the transformer. The tap changer is normally provided with five or seven positions, as indicated on the tap changer dial plate and transformer instruction nameplate.



WARNING: Do not operate the tap changer while the transformer is energized. Doing so can result in severe personal injury and equipment damage.

Insulating Liquid

The insulating liquid in substation transformers is either conventional transformer oil, R-Temp[®] fluid or Envirotemp[®] FR3[™] fluid. When makeup liquid is required, use only approved fluid of the same type that is in the transformer. It is important to check the proper liquid level in the transformer at all times by periodically observing the liquid level gauge. In addition, the dielectric strength of the insulating liquid must be maintained at a high value.

It is recommended that a sample be taken of the liquid and tested within one week after energization, and annually thereafter.

MAINTENANCE

Periodic Inspection

1. External: Periodically check the condition of the paint and finish, especially when the transformer is exposed to inclement atmospheric conditions. If weathering takes place, clean the tank thoroughly, wipe off any insulating liquid that might have been spilled on the surface and repaint with a factory approved paint. Occasionally, inspect and tighten all bolted joints and check for leaks.
2. Regularly inspect all gauges. The liquid level must remain normal, considering the temperature effect. Refill when samples have been taken. Prolonged periods of zero pressure could indicate a gas leak and should be checked out. The liquid temperature should not rise higher than the design value on the nameplate, plus ambient temperature.
3. Liquid samples should be taken periodically and analyzed as indicated under "Sampling". It is recommended that you keep a log of the test values to determine when reconditioning or replenishing service is required.

Removing and Replacing Bushings

Bushing construction falls into two general categories: "draw lead" type as represented by Figure 12 and bottom-connected types with a fixed center stud or internal spade as represented by Figure 13.

The method for removing bushings will differ depending upon the type of construction. The two methods are dealt with separately in the written material that follows.

Before any work commences, standard safety precautions must be observed.



WARNING: Before working with bushings, make sure that the transformer is de-energized and that all circuits to and from the transformer are grounded in order to discharge any stored energy and prevent accidental re-energization. Failure to do so may result in death, severe personal injury and equipment damage.

Additional precautions include the following:

- Lock in the "open" position disconnect switches in the supply lines to and from the transformer.

- If the transformer is under vacuum or pressure, bring the tank to ambient pressure.
- If the bushing to be removed is below the liquid level, lower the level sufficiently to prevent fluid loss.
- To protect from the atmosphere and contaminants, store in clean, dry, sealed containers any removed liquid that will be returned to the transformer.

Removing and Replacing Draw Lead Type Bushings

Removing

1. Unscrew and remove the top terminal cap, exposing the threaded stud end of the draw lead cable. In some cases, the threaded stud will be held by a pin that must also be removed.
2. Fasten a pull wire, cord or rod to the stud in order to guide the lead through the bushing's bore and prevent it from falling into the opening when the bushing is removed. (In some cases, the lead will be of sufficient thickness to be self-supporting; if so, this part of the procedure can be omitted).
3. Remove the bushing mounting clamp nuts at the tank to release the mounting clamp plate and free the bushing for removal.
4. Remove the bushing, guiding the draw lead conductor and terminal stud through the base of the bushing.

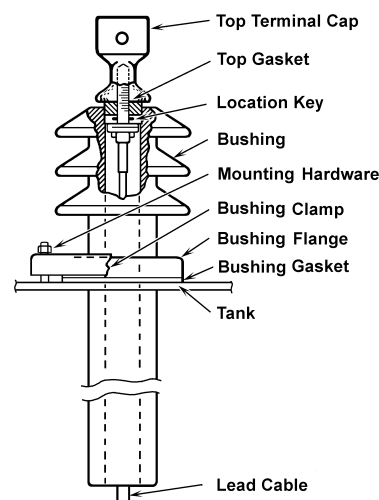


Figure 12.
Draw Lead Type Bushing

Replacing

Replacement draw lead type bushings can be installed by following the removal procedure in reverse order. Clamp bolts should be tightened as specified in Table 1.

The gasket under the bushing mounting flange and the top gasket should be new or in good condition to ensure a positive seal. The gasket mating surfaces must be clean and smooth.

The threaded stud is keyed to the inside of the bushing to prevent rotation while the terminal cap is being tightened. It is important to have the threaded stud correctly seated. This can be accomplished by pulling the stud up and turning it until it is aligned and seated.

Removing and Replacing Fixed Stud or Spade Type Bushings

Removing

1. Remove inspection cover (manhole) nearest to bushing, *only* after all precautions outlined under "Removing and Replacing Bushings" have been taken.
2. To remove the inspection cover:
 - a. Thoroughly clean the cover. Remove all dirt, grease and moisture.
 - b. Release and remove cover bolts.
 - c. Remove the cover. Lift vertically to prevent damage to bolt or cover gaskets.
3. Unbolt the connections - usually flexible straps - from the bottom end of the bushing stud.
4. Remove the bushing mounting clamp nuts at the tank to release the mounting clamp plate and free the bushing for removal.
5. Remove the bushing.

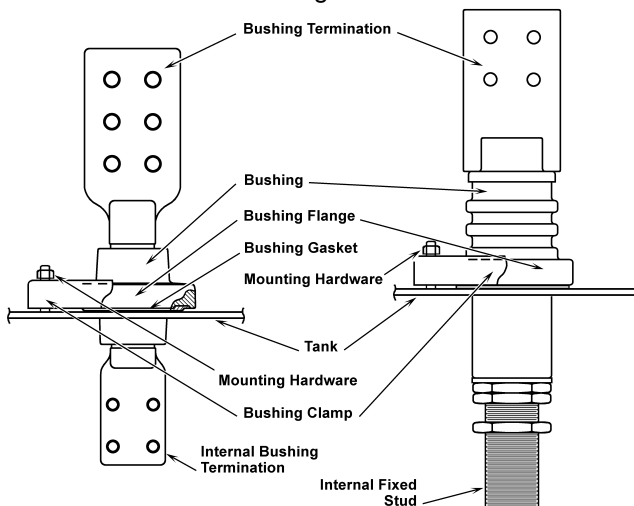


Figure 13.
Fixed Stud and Spade Type Bushings

Replacing

Replacement bushings can be installed by following the removal procedure in reverse order. Clamp bolts should be tightened as specified in Table 1.

The gasket under the bushing mounting flange should be new or in good condition, and the gasket mating surfaces must be clean and smooth.

After installing and connecting the new bushing, replace the inspection opening cover, making certain the gasket is in good condition and the gasket mating surfaces are clean and smooth.

Return to the transformer any liquid removed and check for the correct level.

A brief pressure test of the transformer at 5 psig to confirm the integrity of the seals around all openings above the liquid level is recommended. A solution of soap and water will give indication of a leak by the presence of bubbles.

Bushing Clamps	
4-Hole Aluminum Cast Bushing Clamps	70-80 in.-lbs.
Molded Tri-Clamp Bushing	40-60 in.-lbs.
All other 3 & 4 hole Bushing Clamps	40-60 in.-lbs.
2-hole Bushing Clamps	55-65 in.-lbs.

Internal Spade Bushings	
1/2" Steel (Grade 8)	50 ft.-lbs.
3/8" Steel (Grade 8)	50 ft.-lbs.

Internal Stud Bushings	
3/8"-16 Brass Nuts	16 ft.-lbs.
5/8"-11 Aluminum Nuts	60 ft.-lbs.
5/8"-11 Brass Nuts	75 ft.-lbs.
1"-14 Brass Nuts	121 ft.-lbs.
Bushing Lead Block, 1/2" Steel Hardware	110 ft.-lbs.

Table 1.
Torque Values

Cover Removal

(For Envirotemp FR3 fluid-filled units, see "Insulating Liquid Maintenance" Section before continuing)

Transformers that have been system connected should be de-energized, grounded, and disconnected before being opened for inspection.

Substation transformers may have either bolt-on or weld-in-place main tank covers. Access to the interior of a transformer with a bolt-on main tank cover without handholes requires removal of the entire cover. Access to the interior of the welded-in-place main tank cover design is typically through manhole or handholes.



WARNING: Before the tank cover, manhole cover or handhole cover is removed, the transformer tank must be vented to zero pressure by activating the pressure relief valve. Failure to do so may result in severe personal injury, death or property damage.



CAUTION: If the main tank cover, manhole cover, handhole cover or access cover must be removed for internal inspection or service of the transformer, precautions must be taken to prevent dirt or moisture from entering the opened unit. Contamination of the insulating fluid will prevent the transformer from operating properly and may cause serious damage to the transformer.



WARNING: Transformers must never be opened or serviced while system is connected, ungrounded or energized. Tampering with the covers or cover seals of a transformer that has not been de-energized, grounded and disconnected may result in severe personal injury, death or property damage.

To Remove a Bolt-On Main Tank Cover

1. Thoroughly clean the cover. Remove all dirt, grease and moisture.
2. Relieve internal tank pressure by manually operating the pressure relief valve.
3. Remove the hardware (3/8" inch nuts using a 9/16" socket) which attaches the cover to the tank.
4. Gently pry the cover upward, making sure that the cover gasket does not come in contact with the transformer insulating liquid. Lift vertically to prevent damage to cover, bolts, and tank gasket.
5. Remove the gasket sections from the tank flange, noting the location and orientation (up/down) of each piece.

To Reinstall the Bolt-On Main Tank Cover

1. Return the gasket sections to their original positions and orientation.
2. Reinstall the cover, using 25 ft-lbs. torque to tighten the cover hardware. After installing all the nuts, re-torque each nut to insure the proper torque is achieved.

3. Remove the pressure relief valve and pressurize the headspace to insure that there are no leaks. The pressure should not exceed 7 psig. The established pressure should be maintained for at least four hours to insure that all the seals are proper.

To Remove a Bolted-On Manhole or Handhole Cover

1. Thoroughly clean the cover. Remove all dirt, grease and moisture.
2. Relieve internal tank pressure by manually operating the pressure relief valve.
3. Remove the hardware (3/8" inch nuts using a 9/16" socket) which attaches the cover to the tank.
4. Gently pry the cover upward, making sure that the cover gasket does not come in contact with the transformer insulating liquid. Lift vertically to prevent damage to cover, bolts, and tank gasket.
5. Remove the gasket sections from the manhole flange, noting the location and orientation (up/down) of each piece.

To Reinstall the Bolt-On Manhole or Handhole Cover

1. Return the gasket sections to their original positions and orientation.
2. Reinstall the manhole/handhole cover, using 25 ft-lbs. torque to tighten the hardware. After installing all the nuts, re-torque each nut to insure the proper torque is achieved.
3. Remove the pressure relief valve and pressurize the headspace to insure that there are no leaks. The pressure should not exceed 7 psig. The established pressure should be maintained for at least four hours to insure that all the seals are proper.
4. Reinstall the access cover using 25 ft-lbs. torque to tighten the access cover hardware.



WARNING: If the need arises to open a welded tank unit by cutting welds, purge all gas space with nitrogen and keep nitrogen flowing during cutting operations. Failure to do so may cause gases to explode in the tank.

Insulating Liquid Maintenance


Sampling Insulating Liquid

NOTE A sample of the liquid should be taken when the unit is warmer than the surrounding air to avoid condensation of moisture on the liquid. Liquid samples must be drawn from the sampling valve located at the bottom of the transformer tank.

Containers used for sampling liquid should be clean and dry large mouth glass bottles.

Do not permit the fluid to splash into the receiving container. Splashing can introduce air and moisture into the fluid. Rinse the bottle three times with the liquid being sampled. Make sure the liquid being sampled is representative of the liquid in the unit.

Test samples should be taken only after the liquid has settled for some time – eight hours for a barrel, up to several days for a large transformer. Cold insulating liquid is much slower in settling. Liquid samples from the transformer should be taken from the sampling valve at the bottom of the tank.

 **WARNING:** Do not lower fluid in tank to a level below the top of the core clamp. Insufficient fluid risks unit failure, which could result in severe personal injury or death to exposed personnel.

When sampling, a metal or non-rubber hose must be used because oil leaches the sulfur found in rubber. The presence of sulfur can prove harmful to transformer components.

When drawing samples from the bottom of the transformer or large tank, sufficient liquid must first be drawn off to ensure that the sample will be from the bottom of the tank, and not the liquid stored in the sampling pipe.

Testing Insulating Liquid

For testing the dielectric strength of insulating liquids, follow the procedure specified by the American Society for Testing Materials in ASTM D-877, "Standard Method for Testing Electrical Insulating Oils."

If, at any time, the dielectric strength of the liquid drops below 26 kV, it should be filtered until it tests at 26 kV or better.

Filtering Insulating Liquid

Transformer oil, R-Temp fluid or Envirotemp FR3 fluid can be filtered by means of a filter press. The filter press

is effective for removing all types of foreign matter, including finely divided carbon and small amounts of moisture. The purifier equipment consists of a specifically proportioned filter press, a positive volume gear pump, driving motor, combined drip pan and mixing tank, necessary piping, valves, strainer, gauges and a drying oven.

Filtration should be continued until the dielectric test of the insulating liquid is 26 kV or better.



CAUTION: When filtering any insulating fluid, the filtering equipment must be free of contaminants and other liquids. The presence of other liquids may alter the physical and electrical characteristics of the fluid.

Applicable Standards

1. ANSI C57.91 (Latest Issue), "Guide for Loading Mineral Oil Immersed Transformers."
2. ANSI Publication C57.93, (Latest Issue) "Guide for Installation and Maintenance of Liquid Immersed Power Transformers."
3. ANSI C57.106 (Latest Issue), "Guide for Acceptance and Maintenance of Insulating Oil in Equipment."
4. ASTM Specification #D-877, "The Standard Method of Testing Electrical Insulating Oils."
5. ANSI C57.121 (Latest issue), "Guide for Acceptance and Maintenance of Less Flammable Hydrocarbon Fluid in Transformers."

R-Temp Fluid-Filled Transformers

Periodic maintenance tests for R-Temp fluid-filled transformers should be performed on essentially the same schedule as would be used for conventional mineral oil-filled transformers of similar application. The same type of sampling techniques should be used. Basic recommended tests for R-Temp fluid-filled transformers are dielectric strength, moisture content, and flash and fire point.

Dielectric Strength

Although the transformer should operate satisfactorily with a fluid dielectric strength of 22 kV, an R-Temp fluid dielectric strength below 25 kV is an indication of excessive contamination. In this case, the R-Temp fluid should be replaced or filtered to remove the moisture or particulate contamination.

The dielectric strength of R-Temp fluid should be tested in accordance with ASTM D-877.

Flash and Fire Points

Relatively small percentages (2-3%) of transformer oil or contaminants may substantially reduce the flash and fire point of R-Temp fluid. If it is suspected that the fluid may have been exposed to contamination, the flash and fire point should be measured in accordance with ASTM D-92. A fire point lower than 300°C probably indicates some contamination by lower fire point material. If flash or fire points fall below the minimum values required, refilling may be required.

Drain and Refill

If it is necessary to drain and refill the transformer, special care should be taken to avoid the entrapment of gas bubbles in the system. Sufficient time should be allowed between refilling and energization of the transformer to be sure that any gas bubbles created during the process have dissipated.

Request Bulletin 97038 for additional handling guidelines for R-Temp fluid.

Envirotemp FR3 Fluid-Filled Transformers

Periodic maintenance should be performed on the same schedule as would be used for units of similar application filled with transformer oil. The same type of sampling techniques should be used (ASTM-D923). Basic recommended tests for Envirotemp FR3 fluid are dielectric strength, moisture content and flash and fire points.

Acceptance values should meet or exceed those shown in IEC 1203 Guide for Maintenance of Transformer Esters in Equipment.



CAUTION: When the insulating fluid temperature is less than -10°C (14°F), no-load tap changers and energized loadbreak switches should not be operated and the bay-o-net fuses should not be used to make or break a load. (Operations at lower temperatures may be possible provided it is certified by the switching device manufacturer for loadbreak operation in Envirotemp FR3 fluid at lower temperatures.)

If the transformer cover or manhole must be removed for internal service, exposure time to ambient air should be minimal. Avoid exposure times greater than 24 hours. Immediately after service is completed, replace the cover or manhole. Then, purge and recharge the headspace with dry nitrogen.

The procedure for recharging the headspace with nitrogen should include the following steps:

1. Fill headspace with dry nitrogen to a pressure of 2-3 psig.
2. Vent headspace to atmospheric pressure.
3. Refill headspace with nitrogen to 2-3 psig.
4. Verify that the unit is hermetically sealed.

If the manhole cover or non-flapper style bay-o-net fuses are removed for more than 24 hours, any oxygen absorber packet(s) should be replaced.

Transformer Oil Contamination

Envirotemp FR3 fluid is fully miscible with oil. There is no known detrimental performance impact when Envirotemp FR3 fluid is mixed with mineral oil. Conversely, except for some reduction in flash and fire points, the same is true for oil mixed in with Envirotemp FR3 fluid. More than 7% mineral oil in Envirotemp FR3 fluid is required to drop the fire point to below 300°C. To maintain its exceptional environmental classification, contamination of Envirotemp FR3 dielectric coolant by any other fluids should be avoided.

Request Bulletin 99048 for additional handling guidelines for Envirotemp FR3 fluid.

Spare Parts and Service

We suggest that you keep one spare set of gaskets for the manhole and any gasket-type bushings used. Other renewal parts may be ordered through your local factory representative. When ordering parts or requesting service, provide a complete description of the part or the problem and the complete transformer serial number as listed on the nameplate.

For additional information, contact:

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The logo for Cooper Power Systems features a stylized black parallelogram above the word "COOPER" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Power Systems" in a smaller, regular sans-serif font.

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