NATIONAL SAFETY INSTRUCTION
and
Guidance

NSI 2
EARTHING HIGH VOLTAGE EQUIPMENT

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## KEY CHANGES

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<td>Additional wording to clarify when Drain Earths to be used for breaking/making connections.</td>
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<td>7.6 &amp; 7.6 Guidance</td>
<td>Wording amended to clarify management of OHL circulating currents</td>
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<td>Addition to wording in A.1 to clarify number of earths to be applied.</td>
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EARTHING HIGH VOLTAGE EQUIPMENT

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1 Purpose and Scope

To apply the principles established by the Safety Rules and provide guidance on National Safety Instruction 2, on the use of Earthing Device(s) to achieve Safety from the System for Personnel working on or near to High Voltage Equipment in substations.

Earthing is carried out as part of the application of safety precautions. It protects Personnel against the effects of inadvertent energisation and Equipment that may be Charged.

The management of earthing High Voltage Equipment on overhead lines and substation terminal Equipment is covered by the Management Procedure – NSI 4 “Work on or Near High Voltage Overhead Lines”.

National Grid Personnel when applying principles established by the Safety Rules on the use of Earthing Device(s) to achieve Safety from the System shall be appointed to this NSI. For Contractor appointment see Appendix C.

The layout of this guidance note reflects that of legislative codes of practice, where the rule (or mandatory obligation) is identified by a green panel on the left-hand side. The guidance follows after the rule and is identified by a blue panel.

Within National Grid, guidance notes hold equivalent status of an Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) in law. If not followed, you will be required to demonstrate that your safe system of work is of an equal or higher standard.

2 Definitions

Terms printed in bold type are as defined in the Safety Rules.

3 Dangers

The System Danger(s) to Personnel applying or removing Earthing Device(s) to HV Equipment are electrocution, burns and effects on eyes arising from:-

- Inadvertent infringement of Safety Distance
- The application of Earthing Device(s) to Live HV Equipment
- Badly connected or insecure Earthing Device(s)
- The incorrect sequence or method of application or removal of Earthing Device(s)
- Charged Equipment and the voltage difference across a break in electrical conductors
- Incorrect management of circulating currents
- The electrical arc drawn by the application or removal of an Earthing Device
- The application of Earthing Device(s) to an inadequate or defective earth system
- Incorrect identification of Earthing Device(s)
- Inadequate permanent Earthing of Equipment or conductors (e.g. ‘floating’ sections of busbar)
4 General Requirements for Primary Earths

4.1 Primary Earth(s) shall be of adequate strength and capability to provide an efficient connection between earth and the HV Equipment. Primary Earth(s) and the associated Equipment they are connected to shall be capable of safely discharging any resultant fault current due to any inadvertent energisation.

4.2 A fixed Earthing Device, shall where reasonably practicable be used to make the first and break the last earth connection. Where this is not reasonably practicable the Senior Authorised Person shall carry out a written risk assessment to determine the safest way to apply / remove portable Earthing Device(s) to / from the HV Equipment.

4.3 Primary Earth(s) shall be positioned within the zone established by the Point(s) of Isolation. They shall, where reasonably practicable, be positioned between the point of work and all Point(s) of Isolation. This should include, where applicable, the Point(s) of Isolation from common neutral earthing equipment.

Where it is not reasonably practicable to apply Primary Earth(s) between the point of work and the Point(s) of Isolation they may be placed in an alternative position so as to have a similar electrical effect. Such a position could be one of the following:

a) On a permanent connection teed between the point of work and the Point of Isolation at a distance not exceeding 9m from the tee point, or

b) At a permanent connection point not more than 9m beyond the point of work from the Point of Isolation, or

c) As detailed in an Approved procedure

For SF₆ Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) the distance of 9m quoted above can be extended to 30m provided the full intent of this section is met.

4.4 Primary Earth(s) shall be applied to all phases except where work is carried out on phase segregated HV Equipment.

4.5 Before a Safety Document is issued on an overhead line circuit, Primary Earth(s) are to be initially connected to the overhead line at all ends.

4.6 The Senior Authorised Person shall ensure that no work will be undertaken that may prevent a Primary Earth from being effective.

4.7 When portable Earthing Device(s) are to be used as Primary Earth(s) a label shall be attached to identify them as Primary Earth(s).
4 General Requirements for Primary Earths

4.1 Earthing Device(s) used as a Primary Earth and associated portable application devices shall be type registered.

At certain Location(s) it is necessary to apply multiple portable Earthing Device(s) per phase, at each point of earthing, to cater for the maximum fault level of the HV Equipment. These Location(s) and the number of earths required are specified in Appendix A. During the switching instruction preamble the number of portable Earthing Device(s) required per phase shall be confirmed between both the Control Person (Safety) and the Senior Authorised Person.

If the number of portable Earthing Device(s) applied needs to increase in line with current substation arrangements whilst quoted on Safety Document(s) then the following process shall apply:

a) The Working Party is withdrawn from the work area and the Competent Person signs the Transfer Record Section of the Safety Document.

b) The Safety Document is placed in the safe custody of the Senior Authorised Person and managed by the Status of Transfer Form.

c) The Control Person (Safety) to confirm with logged statement that all affected Safety Document(s) are accounted for, and in safe custody.

d) A Switching instruction is given by Control Person (Safety) to the Senior Authorised Person to apply portable Earthing Device(s) (amount per phase) to achieve the correct number.

e) Once the switching instruction is confirmed back to Control Person (Safety), the Safety Document can be taken out of safe custody by the Senior Authorised Person and reissued to the Competent Person.

Primary Earth(s) subjected to short circuit fault current shall be inspected for damage prior to re-use. In the case of portable Primary Earth(s) the Senior Authorised Person shall immediately arrange disposal of the portable Primary Earth(s).

Portable Earthing Device(s) used as a Primary Earth(s) shall not be connected to arcing horns, corona rings, hollow Holtom conductor etc.

Portable Earthing Device(s) used as a Primary Earth(s) may be applied to solid stranded aluminium conductors or internally supported (This can be verified by local knowledge or reference to engineering drawings), tinned, copper, Holtom type conductors.
When applying portable **Primary Earth(s)** to braid / shunts the following shall be confirmed by the **Senior Authorised Person** prior to application:

- Braid / Shunt shall have a round profile, refer to Figure 4.1C
- Ensure the line end clamp is the correct size for the cross sectional area of the conductor
- Only one portable **Primary Earth** to be applied to each braid / shunt
- If a short circuit fault was to occur the busbar connector will require replacement

For work involving line end **Equipment** it is also recognised that a potential hazard may exist under certain **System** configurations from high circulating currents. In line with Management Procedure – NSI 4 “Work on or Near High Voltage Overhead Lines” a substation Drain Earthing Shorting Scheme (DrESS) to the overhead line entry point may need to be applied.

Where portable **Primary Earth(s)** have been applied for more than 6 months they shall be replaced in agreement with the **Control Person (Safety)**. They shall then be quarantined until maintained.

4.2 An example of where it is not reasonably practicable to apply a fixed **Earthing Device** is a mesh bus section where there are no fixed **Earthing Device(s)** by design. As **Point(s) of Isolation** are visible from the point of work, the correct circuit can be identified. **Danger** from **Charged** conductors is minimal due to the short length of busbar. There is therefore a reduced risk and it is acceptable to apply portable **Earthing Device(s)**, refer to Guidance Section 7.2 for information on written risk assessments.

Where **Point(s) of Isolation** are not visible from the point of work and fixed **Earthing Device(s)** are not available, the indirect earthing of **HV Equipment** may be achieved by the operation of a circuit breaker or a disconnector to indirectly make the first and break the last earth connection to the **HV Equipment**.

Where reasonably practicable a circuit breaker shall be used in preference to a disconnector for indirect earthing. In this instance any disconnector between the **Earthing Device**, the circuit breaker and the planned point of work, shall be closed prior to the closure of the circuit breaker.
Guidance

NSI 2

4.2 Cont. to 4.3

Where reasonably practicable local operation (e.g. at the CB or disconnector local control cubicle) to provide an earth, shall be avoided.

Line end disconnectors are not designed to make or break circulating currents created by overhead line circuits and shall not be closed / opened to indirectly make / break the first / last connection to earth which may interrupt circulating currents.

If a fixed Earthing Device has a technical limitation, stating it is not fully rated as a Primary Earth, it shall still be used to make the first and break the last earth connection, prior to the application or removal of portable Primary Earth(s).

4.3 Primary Earth(s) should be close to and visible from the point of work. If not, the Senior Authorised Person shall consider the application of additional Earthing Device(s) at the point of work.

Schematic diagram for Option (a) and (b)

Option a) - On a permanently teed connection at a maximum of 9m from the tee point

Option b) - Maximum of 9m beyond the point of work from the Point of Isolation
Guidance
NSI 2
4.3 cont.

**Primary Earth(s)** shall, where reasonably practicable, be positioned outside the demarcated work area. If not reasonably practicable then a safe system of work shall be established to ensure that the integrity of the **Primary Earth(s)** are not affected by the work.

If the **Primary Earth(s)** are compromised stop work, withdraw the Working Party and inform an **Senior Authorised Person** immediately. If an **Senior Authorised Person** cannot be contacted, the PIC shall contact the TNCC and inform them of the location and description of the earths that have been compromised.

Guidance
NSI 2
4.4 to 4.7

4.4 When earthing against a single phase VT **Primary Earth(s)** shall be applied to all 3 phases.

Examples of phase segregated **HV Equipment** are 400 kV metal enclosed SF₆ Gas Insulated Switchgear and generator terminal connections, where conductors are in individual single phase **Earthed** metal enclosures.

4.5 For the management of circulating currents as described within Management Procedure - NSI 4 “Work on or Near High Voltage Overhead Lines” a **Primary Earth** shall be initially applied line side of any **Point(s) of Isolation** in a substation and not separated from the overhead line by any temporary or permanent disconnection including **Equipment** in the open position. When this is not reasonably practicable the **Senior Authorised Person** shall discuss and agree alternative earth arrangements with the overhead line **Senior Authorised Person**.

4.7 When portable **Earthing Device(s)** are to be used as **Primary Earth(s)**, a label shall be attached in a position that is visible. The sign is designed to distinguish them from **Drain Earth(s)** and states: “No unauthorised interference”. When **Primary Earth(s)** are removed/replaced under a **Sanction for Work**, this is classed as authorised interference.

Figure 4.7 – Example of Portable Primary Earth Label
5 General Requirements for Drain Earths

5.1 Where Charged Equipment may cause Danger, Drain Earth(s) shall be applied in accordance with an Earthing Schedule that will be issued along with the Safety Document.

5.2 The recipient of the Safety Document is responsible for the control and safe custody of Drain Earth(s) and associated application device issued with an Earthing Schedule.

The Competent Person, or a Person under his Personal Supervision may apply and remove Drain Earth(s) in accordance with an Earthing Schedule under a Safety Document.

5 General Requirements for Drain Earths

5.1 Earthing Device(s) to be used as Drain Earth(s) shall be type registered. Consideration shall also be made of Equipment disconnected from earth resulting in a floating section which may in itself become Charged.

5.2 Portable Drain Earth(s) where reasonably practicable shall be applied to a main current carrying conductors. Where this is not reasonably practicable, Drain Earth(s) may be applied to arcing horns, corona rings etc., this excludes HV Equipment which is electrically connected to the overhead line due to high circulating currents unless the circulating currents have been removed by the application of an OHL Earthing Scheme.

To ensure Drain Earth(s), when not in use, are kept in safe custody, the Safety Document recipient shall keep them in a locked vehicle, box, cupboard or room etc. which can only be unlocked by himself, or:

(a) For substation earths, by securing the earths together by a lockable strap e.g. earth strap

For the application / removal of Drain Earth(s) the recipient of the Earthing schedule shall undertake a personal risk assessment to control the risks associated with weather conditions, ground conditions and manual handling etc. Where a Contractor is authorised to apply Drain Earth(s) they shall produce the risk assessment which shall be reviewed as acceptable by the Senior Authorised Person for safety from the system issues, e.g. detached Drain Earth.

For the application and removal of Drain Earth(s), refer to Section 7.3.

In order to hold a Safety Document where the Earthing Schedule is issued to a Contractor, the Contractor shall be authorised in accordance with Appendix C. The recipient of the Safety Document is responsible for the control and safe custody of Drain Earth(s).
6 General Requirements for Portable Earths

6.1 Portable Earthing Device(s) and their associated application devices shall be inspected and maintained.

**Earthing Device(s)** shall be examined immediately before and after use for defects. Defective Portable Earthing Device(s) and application devices shall be immediately withdrawn from service.

6.2 Type registered Portable Earthing Device(s) shall be applied and removed using a type registered application device.

In any cell or cubicle, all exposed conductors shall be **Isolated** and **Point(s) of Isolation** established before any portable Earthing Device(s) are applied.

When portable Earthing Device(s) are to be applied, or issued under an **Earthing Schedule**, only those necessary for the immediate operations shall be removed from the store.

It is essential that low resistance connections be established with the portable Earthing Device, to ensure any voltage differences present are limited to within safe levels. Prior to the application of the earth end clamp, the portion of the earth tape to which the earth clamp is to be applied shall be inspected and cleaned to remove paint etc., refer to Figure 6.1B, to encourage a low resistance connection between the clamp and the earth tape.

When the line end clamp is being applied to the busbar appropriately sized earthing clamps shall always be used to ensure an adequate connection is made. Refer to the Type Registration list for details of clamp sizes and the busbar sizes they are designed for. Figure 6.1A shows incorrect application.

When fitting the line end clamp it should be partially rotated in both directions during tightening process to encourage a low resistance connection between the clamp and the busbar.

When applying or removing large head clamps, application device S2 Sockets, refer to Figure 6.1C are more suitable as they have a spigot retaining spring, for applying earths in downward direction or at an angle, whilst allowing clamps free to rotate.

S1 Socket – has a slot, stopping the smaller clamps from rotating, but has no spigot retaining spring.
Guidance
NSI 2
6.1 Cont. to 6.2

Figure 6.1A  Figure 6.1B  Figure 6.1C “S2” clamp top

Portable Earthing Device(s) shall be returned to the storeroom as soon as practicable after use.

6.2 Portable Earthing Device(s) and their associated application / removal devices are identified in Type Registered List TRL 2.2 Part 4 – Substation Portable Earthing Equipment.
7 **Application / Removal of Earthing Devices**

7.1 (a) Fully or partially interlocked fixed **Earthing Device(s)** shall be applied and removed by an **Authorised Person**, under the instructions of the appropriate **Control Person**.

(b) Non interlocked fixed **Earthing Device(s)** shall be applied and removed by a **Senior Authorised Person**, under the instructions of the appropriate **Control Person**.

7.2 Application or removal of portable **Earthing Device(s)** to be used as **Primary Earth(s)** shall be carried out by:-

- The **Senior Authorised Person** who has received the instruction from a **Control Person (Safety)**
- A **Competent Person** under the **Personal Supervision** of the **Senior Authorised Person**. The Senior Authorised Person will have received the instruction from a **Control Person (Safety)**

Where additional **Personnel** are required to assist in the application or removal of portable **Earthing Device(s)** their role is to provide physical assistance only. This activity shall be carried out under the **Personal Supervision** of the **Senior Authorised Person**.

7.3 Before **Earthing Device(s)** are connected to the earth system the earth system should be inspected to ensure it is intact.

When a portable **Earthing Device** is to be applied the following sequence shall be undertaken:-

- All earth end clamps shall be applied first
- All line end clamps can then be applied

For removal of a portable **Earthing Device** the following sequence shall be undertaken:-

- All line end clamps shall be removed first
- All earth end clamps can then be removed

At no time shall the line end clamp of a portable **Earthing Device** be allowed to remain connected when its earth continuity path has been compromised / detached. An additional earth shall be applied in parallel before the faulty **Earthing Device** is removed.

7.4 An appropriately authorised **Competent Person** may remove and apply **Primary Earth(s)** as defined on a **Sanction for Work**.

7.5 Before a break is made in an electrical conductor or a connection is made across a break, **the SAP shall assess the means of excluding Danger**, which could arise from voltage difference. **Where Danger exists, Earthing Device(s)** shall be applied on both sides of, and in close proximity to, the point where a break or connection is to be made.

7.6 Equipment connected to line end circuits are subject to circulating currents, before a break is made consultation may be sought from an **overhead line Senior Authorised Person**.
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| NSI 2    | 7.2 A Senior Authorised Person shall receive the instruction for the application or removal of portable Primary Earth(s). Switching Instructions for earthing shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of Management Procedure - NSI 1 “Operational and Safety Switching”.

Before applying portable Primary Earth(s) the Senior Authorised Person shall carry out a risk assessment and record the appropriate controls e.g. Model Risk Assessment for Application and Removal of Portable Primary Earths or the rear of the Switching Instruction Sheet. To achieve this, the Senior Authorised Person shall carry out a visual risk assessment at the point of earthing.

Senior Authorised Person shall consider the following as part of their risk assessment:

- Condition of portable Primary Earth(s) inspected for damage and within inspection date
- Condition of earth tape at point of application
- Point(s) of Isolation confirmed
- Point at which Earthing Device(s) are to be applied
- Proximity of adjacent Live HV Equipment
- Proximity of lower level exposed conductors e.g. stress shields, corona rings, CT housing etc.
- Ground conditions at point of application
- Height at which portable Earthing Device has to be applied
- Prevailing weather conditions

Figure 7.2A – Example of proximity of lower level equipment - **Safety Distance** to be maintained when applying portable Earthing Device(s) will be from the bottom of the CT housing not the conductor as indicated by the red arrows.

The control measures shall include, where appropriate:

- Switching out adjacent Live Equipment
- Ensuring that electrical protective devices are in service on adjacent busbars and circuits
- Number of portable Earthing Device(s) required
- Deciding whether additional Personnel should be used to assist with the application or to help prevent loss of control
- Reference to dimensional drawings
- Use of Optical measuring devices
- Use Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) for application / remove of Earthing Device at height
If a MEWP is used for high level application/removal of portable Earthing Device(s), Safety Distance shall be maintained at all times. The controls for this shall be identified in the generic risk assessment “SITE 007 – Application and Removal of Portable Primary Earths”, which is made site specific by the Senior Authorised Person.

The risk assessment shall be retained in an A4 folder titled “Portable Earthing Devices Risk Assessments” located within the substation switching office for a period of 6 months.

Contractors shall not apply, remove or assist in the application or removal of portable Primary Earth(s) to or from the System unless they are under the instructions specified with a Sanction for Work Safety Document and have the appropriate authorisations to do so.

Where reasonably practicable portable Earthing Device(s) with single earth leads shall be applied. The application of single earth leads will assist to reduce potential manual handling issues associated with the application of multiple earth leads. An example where it is not reasonably practicable is where some caged equipment have double earth leads specifically designed.

Earthing at Hall Type 132 kV Substations is controlled via an interlock system. An example is included in Appendix B for guidance.

7.3 Before Earthing Device(s) are connected to the earth system endeavours should be made to ensure the earth system is intact. This may consist of a visual inspection, communication with site representatives or viewing Technical Limitations.

When an increase of number of portable Earthing Devices is required for existing portable Primary Earths as detailed in Section 4.1 Guidance; the requirement to ensure all earth end clamps are applied first followed by all line end clamps will apply for the additional Earthing Device(s) only.

Operating pole, type ESI-P1 for the application and removal of portable Earthing Device(s) shall not be greater than 6.1 metres in length (2 long poles and 1 short pole).

Where multiple earth leads are connected in close proximity to each other at the earth end connection, and cannot be adequately separated, if one is required to be removed then both shall be removed prior to the re-application of the other.

When the continuity path of a portable Earthing Device has been compromised, an additional earth shall be applied in parallel. All work relying on the portable Earthing Device as a safety precaution or as a further precaution shall be halted, until the portable Earthing Device has been replaced. For Primary Earth(s) the Control Person (Safety) shall be immediately informed.

The risk assessment for the application of the additional portable Earthing Device shall ensure that no Personnel are exposed to Danger.
7.4 A Competent Person authorised to Management Procedure – NSI 9 “Testing High Voltage Equipment”, may remove and apply Primary Earth(s) as defined on a Sanction for Work.

7.5 Where Danger is excluded due to existing earthing arrangements, reduced drain earthing may be utilised, for example, where Primary Earth(s) is in close proximity to the break.

7.6 High circulating currents may appear on substation line end Equipment. The Senior Authorised Person may consult with an overhead line Senior Authorised Person competent to Management Procedure - NSI 4 “Working on or Near High Voltage Overhead Lines”.

High circulating currents (900 A) can flow in the Earthing Device(s) applied by overhead lines to a Complex Circuit. Prior to work commencing the overhead line Senior Authorised Person may apply additional Primary Earth(s) to sectionalise the circuit or by the local application of a DrESS.

High circulating currents (450 A) can flow in the conductors of a simple circuit. The overhead lines Senior Authorised Person will guide and assist in the management of this current.

Typical Configurations of Circulating Current in Substations
Guidance (NSI 2)

7.6 Cont.

Figure 7.6A shows the overhead line and substation authorisation interface when earthing on line end Equipment.

Note: NSI 6 & 8 applies to all work inside the HV compound

Figure 7.6A – OHL / Substation Interface
### 7.7 When HV Equipment has been disconnected from all primary and secondary supplies in preparation for temporary removal from the normal position the use of Drain Earth(s) is not necessary, provided that it is not Charged and Danger is excluded.

### 7.8 When Drain Earth(s) prevent access to the point of work, and Danger could arise from Charged Equipment, the HV Equipment shall be connected to earth by applying Drain Earth(s) at the nearest convenient point. Drain Earth(s) shall be applied in accordance with an Earthing Schedule. These Drain Earth(s) may be removed in turn as the work is done. Each earth removed shall be replaced before the next one is removed.

### 7.9 When working on Metalclad Switchgear and Earthing is required, reference shall be made to Management Procedure NSI 3 - High Voltage Metalclad Switchgear with Spouts.

### 7.10 Earthing Device(s) applied for the dissipation of trapped charge at GIS substations may only be applied to Isolated sections and does not require the establishment of Point(s) of Isolation prior to their application or removal.

### 7.11 Fixed line end Earthing Device(s) identified by the additional nomenclature suffix R are Restricted to a specific operating sequence which shall be co-ordinated and instructed by the Control Person (Safety).

If any Restricted Earthing Device is required:

i) as a Drain Earth on an Earthing Schedule,

ii) to be operated under a Sanction for Work

iii) as Equipment to be maintained under a Safety Document

iv) Operate as Required

The Control Person (Safety) shall confirm the availability of the Restricted Earthing Device(s) as a Drain Earth(s) and/or its suitability to be maintained before Consent to a Safety Document.

If an Operate As Required instruction is requested for a Restricted Earthing Device(s) by substation staff, the Control Person (Safety) shall review the overhead line circuit on which the restriction exists on the Integrated Energy Management System.
Guidance
NSI 2
7.7 to 7.11

7.7 Management Procedure NSI 33 – “The Addition / Removal To / From The System” gives guidance on the process for temporarily removing Equipment from the System e.g. for workshop repair.

7.11 Operate As Required instructions shall not be issued for a Restricted Earthing Device(s) if:-

i) a remote end Earthing Device(s) is quoted as Equipment or as a Drain Earth(s) on a Safety Document or if a remote end Earthing Device(s) is already under an Operate As Required instruction (where the remote end Earthing Device(s) position cannot be confirmed until either is cancelled) or

ii) both the remote end Earthing Device(s) are otherwise closed

unless a suitable Primary Earth(s) exists on the line side of the Restricted Earthing Device(s). Any deviation from this shall be with agreement of the OHL Senior Authorised Person.
8 Special Cases of the Application of Primary Earths

8.1 Earthing at Tandem Isolators

When it is necessary to apply or remove portable Primary Earth(s) at Tandem Isolators and special earthing facilities are not provided, this shall where reasonably practicable be carried out with Point(s) of Isolation established at both sides of the Isolator. If this is not reasonably practicable the Senior Authorised Person shall carry out a written risk assessment and decide the appropriate control measures and safe method of applying the portable Primary Earth(s) to the HV Equipment.

8.2 Earthing Above Live Circuits shall not be carried out.

8.3 Indoor Type Substations

When applying Earthing Device(s) at Hall type indoor 132 kV substations the Senior Authorised Person shall carry out a written risk assessment detailing the control measures required to prevent items falling out of the busbar trolley whilst traversing above Live circuits.

8.4 Transformers and Reactors

If the work involves any disconnection of the Transformer or Reactor from the earthed HV System, all three phases of at least one winding of the Transformer or Reactor shall remain earthed to avoid the possibility of induced voltages.

The requirement for continued earthing, will be assessed by the Senior Authorised Person on site and if required may be achieved by the application of either additional Primary Earth(s) or Drain Earth(s). (The Senior Authorised Person shall assess if the transformer or reactor windings need to remain Earthed.)

When a generator transformer is connected to a generator turning on barring gear, care shall be taken that the continuity of the earth path through the windings is maintained. If work on the tap changer or windings is undertaken, any point of disconnection shall first be bridged. This is to avoid an induced decaying High Voltage being produced across the disconnection due to the collapse of a magnetic field associated with any small circulating current in the transformer windings.

8.5 In-feeds from Auxiliary and Earthing / Auxiliary Transformers

a) Primary Earth(s) shall where reasonably practicable be applied to the HV System between the point of work and the LV Point(s) of Isolation on Auxiliary or Earthing / Auxiliary Transformers.

b) Where it is not reasonably practicable to apply Primary Earth(s) to the HV System between the point of work and the LV Point(s) of Isolation on Auxiliary or Earthing / Auxiliary Transformers, then the requirement of NSI 2 Section 4.3 shall where practicable be applied.

c) Where this is not practicable, safety from the LV System shall be achieved by applying two Point(s) of Isolation in series on the LV side of the transformers.
8 Special Cases of the Application of Primary Earths

8.1 The design of Tandem isolators is such that it is possible when applying or removing portable Earthing Device(s), with one side of the Tandem Isolator still Live, for loss of control to result in inadvertent earthing of Live Equipment.

Figure 8.1A – End Rotating Post Busbar Isolators Arranged in Tandem

Figure 8.1B – Schematic View of Busbar Arrangement

8.3 The risk assessment shall take account of how all items of tools; objects etc. are to be secured within the trolley to prevent the potential for them to fall onto Live circuits whilst the trolley is traversing.
8.4 The possibility of induced voltages appearing on a disconnected transformer terminal may be avoided by ensuring that all three phases of at least one winding of the transformer are short circuited and earthed, and all windings are earthed either at a terminal or the neutral. The short circuit and earth may be formed by the previously applied Primary Earth(s).

If the neutral connection of an autotransformer which has three separate phase neutral connections is broken, then both the higher and lower voltage terminations of that winding will need to be earthed to maintain an effective short circuit.

For example, it is possible to change the 400kV bushings of a 400/132kV autotransformer provided earths are maintained on the 132kV terminals, the Neutral and the Tertiary terminals (if connected to an Auxiliary Transformer).

8.5 b) Where the point of work is the Auxiliary / Earthing Auxiliary Transformer then the Primary Earth(s) shall where reasonably practicable be applied to the HV conductors adjacent the Auxiliary / Earthing Auxiliary Transformer.

c) Where two Point(s) of Isolation are utilised on an Auxiliary / Earthing Auxiliary Transformer any Point(s) of Isolation under the control of CPS2 shall be held for the CPS1 by the issue of a RISSP (Record of Inter System Safety Precautions).
8.1 When earthing against **Point(s) of Isolation** from the LV side of a voltage transformer one of the following shall be applied:

a) apply a **Primary Earth** between the point of work and the voltage transformer.

b) ensure a **Primary Earth** remains solidly connected to the HV side of the voltage transformer, throughout the course of the work. This is irrespective of the distance between the voltage transformer and the Primary Earth.

c) ensure a **Primary Earth** remains solidly connected to a teed section of the conductors between the Point of Work and the voltage transformer, throughout the course of the work. This is irrespective of distance.

9.2 If the work involves the disconnection of a VT or a VT has been disconnected from the **Earthed HV System** at the VT only **Danger** shall be excluded from inadvertent energisation from the VT by the following:

a) **LV Point of Isolation** with Drain Earth(s) applied to the VT HV connection.

b) where it is not Reasonably Practicable to apply the above then two **Points of Isolation** in series should be established on the LV side of the VT.

---

**Guidance**

**NSI 2**

9.1.1 Where an **HV** Capacitor is in series between the voltage transformer and the **Primary Earth**, the electrical properties of the capacitor will result in the Capacitor being a solid connection between the voltage transformer and Primary Earth.

Capacitor C1 electrical properties act as a solid connection to earth switch X251A

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**Figure 9.1** – HV Capacitor in Series between CVT and **Primary Earth**
To protect from inadvertent energisation of the voltage transformer the Primary Earth has to remain solidly connected to the HV side of the voltage transformer, throughout the course of the work. This is irrespective of the distance between the voltage transformer and the Primary Earth, as indicated by the Red arrowed line.

Solid connection means that the VT is connected directly to a Primary Earth i.e. no physical break between the two, for example by:-

- a disconnection.
- disconnector/Isolator or Circuit Breaker in the open position.
- double wound transformer winding.

A solid connection is however acceptable provided through a disconnector or circuit breaker providing the Equipment is in the closed position and secured by a locking device i.e. Locked and the associated Safety Key secured in a Key Safe as a safety precaution.
Guidance
NSI 2
9.1c Cont. to 9.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSI 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1c Cont. to 9.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this example the capacitor voltage transformer on the capacitor bank does not have a **Primary Earth** solidly connected to the voltage transformer, as in example 9.1(b).

The **Primary Earth** (PE1) is solidly connected to a teed section of the conductors between the point of work and the capacitor voltage transformer, as indicated by the red arrowed line. This is irrespective of distance and therefore is adequate earthing against the capacitor voltage transformer **Point of Isolation**.

The windings of a double wound transformer shall not be considered as a solid connection.

The tertiary connection of a transformer is double wound and hence shall not be considered as a solid connection between the **HV** or **LV** windings of the transformer.

The windings of an auto transformer are considered a solid connection.

9.2(a) To protect against in-feed from the VT itself, it is acceptable to apply **Drain Earths**, these may be applied to the VT arcing horns / corona rings.

9.2(b) Where two **Points of Isolation** are utilised on a voltage transformer any **Points of Isolation** that are under the control of CPS2 shall be held for the CPS1 by the issue of a RISSP.
Appendix A - Substation Multiple Primary Earth Requirements

A.1 The assessment of the number of portable Earthing Device(s) to form a Primary Earth at each substation owned or operated by National Grid has been based on the projected maximum and worst case fault level for each substation. Where Earthing Device(s) are to be applied to Equipment operating at a different voltage to that shown listed in Appendix A.10 e.g. 132kV Transformer Bushings in a 400kV Substation, the number of Earthing Device(s) applied shall be as shown for the operating voltage of the Equipment.

A.2 This assessment also included a consideration of the maximum theoretical inducted circulating current likely to be seen on circuit line ends at 400 kV and 275 kV substations against that of the continuous current rating of the portable Earthing Device. It should be noted that in some circumstances line end circulating currents may be present further in the substation and where this condition is applicable; then the line end earthing requirements shall be used. See Table A11 “Earthline Line End Sub-conductors” for details of number of portable Earthing Device(s) for circuit line end sub-conductors.

A.3 Normal running arrangement fault levels (or switchgear nameplate short circuit fault current ratings when no other information was available at the time of publication) have been used to calculate the required number of portable Earthing Device(s) to form a Primary Earth for substations at 132 kV and below which are not owned or operated by National Grid.

Where the number of portable Earthing Devices(s) are calculated using switchgear nameplate short circuit fault current ratings, it may be possible to reduce the number required if the maximum fault level for the site in question can be established prior to their application. The Senior Authorised Person should seek advice on the expected fault levels from the owner or operator of the substation and apply the appropriate number of portable Earthing Device(s) to cater for new fault levels.

A.4 At sites not listed the number of portable Earthing Device(s) applied should be equal to or exceed the rating of the switchgear installed at the substation.

A.5 13 kV tertiary fed busbar systems, by exception default to 3 leads.
25 kV Rail Connection systems, by exception default to 1 lead.

A.6 The short circuit capability of a portable Earthing Device has been reviewed and reassigned for use within 400 kV and 275 kV substations where switchgear ratings are defined against a 1 second rating. The benefits from this are an increase in short circuit capability of the portable Earthing Device at these voltages. The new short circuit rating of a single lead and clamp system for use at 400 kV or 275 kV is 25 kA / 1 second.

A.7 The existing rating of 17.5 kA / 2 seconds for a portable Earthing Device still applies to 132 kV substations and below.

A.8 The numbers of portable Earthing Device(s) declared within the lists are based on portable Earthing Device(s) which have a single lead attached (150mm² flexible aluminium).

A.9 The Standard Number of Portable Earthing Devices (A.10) is now a live document which is updated as necessary.

A10. The Table A.10 – can be accessed via the National Grid Infonet in the SAP briefcase or at http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Safety/NSI/
### Table A.11 Earthing Line End Sub-conductors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Substation Portable Earthing Device(s) applied per phase on line end equipment</th>
<th>Overhead Line Sub conductor Configuration</th>
<th>No. of 150mm² Portable Earthing Device(s) per sub conductor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triple</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: 50mm Duplex earths can only be applied under a suitable Safety Document.
Appendix B - Example of Application of Earthing Devices in Hall Type 132 kV Substations

B.1 This appendix is for the guidance for applying **Earthing Device(s)** to the busbar side of busbar isolators in 132 kV Hall Type substations with a full interlocking system of busbar isolators, busbar fixed earths and bascule / trolley doors. Actual switching sequence may vary depending upon the interlocking design for the substation in question.

B.2 With reference to Figure B1, to apply the first fully rated **Earthing Device** to the appropriate section of busbar after **Point(s) of Isolation** have been established to the appropriate section of busbar. **Safety Distance** shall be maintained at all times for the application of the first fully rated **Earthing Device**:

- To earth busbar adjacent to isolator 414
- 413, 416, 514,154,314, 184, 104, 136, 128 all **Point(s) of Isolation**
- Close and lock isolator 134
- Close the appropriate fixed **Earthing Device** i.e. earth switch 131B
- Close bus coupler circuit breaker 130
- Close the appropriate fixed **Earthing Device** i.e. earth switch 131A
- Open the bus coupler circuit breaker 130

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**Figure B1 – Hall Type 132 kV Substation**

B.3 Once the above sequence has been followed and the appropriate section of busbar has been **Earthed** via a fully rated **Earthing Device**, where it is not reasonably practicable to maintain **Safety Distance**, encroachment within the specified **Safety Distance** may now be allowed for the application / removal of type registered **Earthing Device(s)** and their associated application devices under rule R2.3b of the National Grid UK Electricity Transmission plc Safety Rules.
Appendix C - Guidance on the scope of NSI 2 when working on Cable Sealing Ends

When cable is earthed at local CSE by the application of an earthing device, disconnections can be made from the cable primary conductor connection to the busbar side by NSI 2 authorised Senior Authorised Person / Competent Person. Consideration shall be given to circulating currents when the cable is part of line end equipment.

The scope of NSI 5 includes not only the cable but also any Equipment electrically connected (not via an earth) to the cable as current may be circulating in or voltage may be transferred onto the connected Equipment. The Equipment affected by the requirements of NSI 5 is illustrated in Figure 1.

![Figure 1 Scope of NSI 5](image)

**Key**
- power cable
- auxiliary cable
- tank
- pipeline insulator
- cable termination
- oil gauge
- oil tank

Referring to Figure 1, a number of features are observed. Auxiliary cables are included within the scope of NSI 5 as induced voltages or transfer of earth potential rise affect auxiliary cables. Oil tanks are outside the scope of NSI 5 since pipeline insulators isolate the oil tanks. Note that while the earths of cable systems are outside the scope of NSI 5, that currents circulating in cables can be returned via the earth and that the requirements of NSI 24 Shall to be met.
Appendix D - Authorisation Matrix for Contractors Personnel

Contractors appointment under this NSI shall be limited to the following sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractor Personnel</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Competent Person</th>
<th>Authorised Person</th>
<th>Senior Authorised Person</th>
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<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.4*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* If the contractor is Competent to NSI 9 then in addition to the above sections they will also be limited to 7.4.