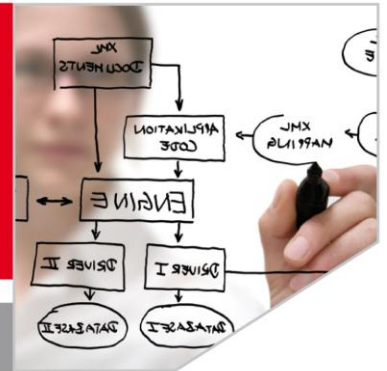


Arc Flash – A Practical Risk Assessment Strategy

Dale Wright, BEng, MBA, Electrical Engineer, Sinclair Knight Merz



Joint Electrical Electronic Papers

EVENT DETAILS

Date:

Wednesday, 8 August 2012

Time:

5.30 pm start
(Light refreshments will be served after the event)

Venue:

Auditorium
Engineers Australia
712 Murray Street
West Perth

Cost:

Free

RSVP:

Not required



Facility managers are well aware that attention to detail saves lives and supports business continuity and reputation. Protecting employees from the hazard of electrical arc flash should be at the forefront of safety thinking for owners and operators of electrical switchgear. Complacency and lack of duty of care with this real and possibly unquantified hazard can lead to serious injury to personnel and preventable fatalities.

With the best of intentions it is often difficult for owner/operators to decide how best to proceed in addressing the hazard. This paper will cover a practical risk assessment strategy which considers the hazards of prospective arc flash incident together with the cumulative effect of switchboard age, design, capability and condition. A simple and structured arc flash risk assessment process is proposed that can rank individual switchboards for the likelihood of exposing personnel to arc flash energy, the consequence and the risk of such exposure and thus provide direction for engineered remediation and capital expenditure.



About the speaker:



Dale Wright graduated as a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in 2002. He has worked in the field of electrical power engineering for nearly 10 years and is currently employed by the Engineering Consultants Sinclair Knight Merz in their Perth based Power and Energy Division. Dale's experience includes engineering works associated with commercial, mining and heavy industry sectors in the areas of engineering design and power transmission/distribution.

Dale also has significant recent experience in electrical safety in design issues, focusing on arc flash risk assessments and mitigation options for ageing HV and LV electrical switchgear.



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