



IEEE Guide for the Application of Shunt Reactor Switching

IEEE Power & Energy Society

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Switchgear Committee

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IEEE-SA Standards Board

Abstract: Guidance for the application of ac high-voltage circuit breakers for shunt reactor switching is provided. Overvoltage generation for the three cases of shunt reactors being directly grounded, ungrounded, or grounded through a neutral reactor is addressed in terms of derivation and limitation methods. Circuit breaker specification for the purpose and the use of laboratory test results to predict field performance is also covered by this guide.

Keywords: ac high voltage circuit breakers, application, inductive load switching, overvoltages, shunt reactor switching, small inductive currents

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std C37.015™-2009, IEEE Guide for the Application of Shunt Reactor Switching.

The subject of shunt reactor switching is complex. The approach taken in the main text of the guide is to present a basic method for the application of circuit breakers for the purpose, which considers only load side circuit characteristics. The method is conservative and will be adequate in many instances. However, by reference to a series of notes, the general case (which incorporates the influence of the source side characteristics and the parallel capacitance of the circuit breaker) is presented. The user of this application guide is encouraged to exercise due discretion in the choice of the basic or general method for the application under consideration. Consideration should, in addition, be given to the magnetic effects associated with air core shunt reactors.

This standard is a revision of IEEE Std C37.015™-1993.

Listed as follows, for information and guidance, are the substantive changes:

- The terms “medium voltage” (MV), “high voltage” (HV), and “extra high voltage” (EHV) have been replaced by a voltage range.
- Subclause 5.2.2 (gapped surge arresters) of the 1993 edition has been moved to an annex (Annex H).
- A list of symbols has been added (Annex G).
- Some of the figures have been redrawn.

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Contents

1. Overview	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Purpose	1
2. General application conditions	2
2.1 Maximum voltage for application	2
2.2 Frequency	2
2.3 Shunt reactor load current	2
2.4 Interrupting time	2
2.5 Transient overvoltages	2
2.6 Fault interrupting capability	2
2.7 Frequency of operation	3
3. Shunt reactor switching conditions	3
3.1 General	3
3.2 Directly grounded reactors	3
3.2.1 Current chopping	5
3.2.2 Reignitions	6
3.2.3 Overvoltages	7
3.2.4 Related phenomena	11
3.3 Ungrounded reactors	12
3.3.1 Current chopping	12
3.3.2 Chopping and reignition overvoltages	13
3.3.3 Recovery voltage across circuit breaker	14
3.3.4 Application	14
3.4 Reactors grounded through a neutral reactor	16
3.4.1 Current chopping	16
3.4.2 Chopping and reignition overvoltages	16
3.4.3 Recovery voltage across circuit breaker	17
3.4.4 Application	17
4. Limitation of overvoltages	18
4.1 General	18
4.2 Shunt reactor surge arrester protection	18
4.3 Circuit breaker auxiliary equipment	20
4.3.1 Opening resistor	20
4.3.2 Metal oxide varistors	20
4.3.3 Controlled opening devices	21
5. Circuit breaker specification	22
5.1 Dielectric withstand capability	22
5.2 Interrupting current rating	22
5.3 Shunt reactor rating	22
5.4 Shunt reactor current	22
5.5 Load side circuit characteristics	22
5.6 Overvoltage limitations	23
5.7 Grounding arrangement	23
5.8 Interrupting time	23
5.9 Mechanical endurance	23
5.10 Additional information	23

Annex A (informative) Shunt reactor characteristics	24
Annex B (informative) System and station characteristics	26
Annex C (informative) General derivation of chopping and reignition overvoltages due to shunt reactor switching	27
Annex D (informative) Oscillation modes.....	32
Annex E (informative) Application of laboratory test results to actual shunt reactor installations	35
Annex F (informative) Statistical equations for derivation of chopping and reignition overvoltages.....	45
Annex G (informative) List of symbols.....	47
Annex H (informative) Overvoltage limitation by means of gapped surge arresters	49
Annex I (informative) Informative documents	51

IEEE Guide for the Application of Shunt Reactor Switching

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1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This application guide applies to ac high-voltage circuit breakers rated for shunt reactor switching.

The guide covers the specific cases of switching directly grounded shunt reactors, ungrounded shunt reactors, and shunt reactors grounded through a neutral reactor. Directly grounded reactors are common on systems having a voltage of 60 kV and above, whereas ungrounded reactors are commonly applied on systems having a voltage below 60 kV. Schemes where the reactor is grounded through a neutral reactor are usually applied only on systems having a voltage of 60 kV and above.

Whereas this application guide is directed toward circuit breakers, it is recognized and accepted that other switching devices such as high-voltage load break switches and circuit switchers are capable of shunt reactor switching and this guide may be applied as appropriate.

1.2 Purpose

This guide is intended for general use in the application of ac high-voltage circuit breakers for shunt reactor current switching.

The current to be interrupted is generally less than 300 A rms; however, shunt reactor switching imposes a unique and severe duty on the connected system and the circuit breaker. Successful interruption is the result of a complex interaction between the circuit breaker and the circuit; this interaction can result in significant overvoltages. The purpose of the guide is to describe, principally for the benefit of the user, the shunt