

Gambica Statement on Water-damaged Electrical Equipment

The following statement has been agreed by Gambica member companies following enquiries received from users whose premises were affected by flooding.

Any electrical devices that have been contaminated by moisture, including submergence or dripping water, should be replaced - this includes electronic devices, MCB, MCCB, ACB, contactors, PLC controllers, terminals, all types of HV (11kV) switchgear, etc.

If there exists in the switchboard/control panel any hygroscopic (moisture absorbing) material, such as some types of insulators and supports then we recommend that these are replaced immediately and the switchboard frame and busbars be fully tested to European standards or IET recommendations.

If this is not deemed possible then the switchboard frame should be replaced with a new board with new devices.

No switchboard/control panel is to be put back into service until it has passed the relevant, pressure, flash and or Megger test as appropriate and as defined in the wiring regulations.

If a switchboard passes the relevant tests according to the regulations and is deemed fit for use after testing, the manufacturer can make no guarantee as to the future operational status of the steel or busbar components of any water contaminated switchgear enclosure.

Equally the manufacturer cannot be held responsible for any corrosion or oxidation that may take place in the future, to a water or moisture contaminated switchboard that is subsequently returned to service.

No personnel are to approach water contaminated switchgear, even for the purpose of damage assessment, before it is fully electrically isolated from all sources of energy.

When this assessment does take place, the internal wiring, trunking etc, must also be assessed for possible replacement.

GAMBICA Controlgear Group
November 2007
Issue 1