

TB 0377 – Reactive Replacement of HV ABC Sections

Date: 08/12/2025

Purpose

This technical bulletin has been issued to communicate how new unassisted failures of HV ABC are to be managed (e.g. repaired or replaced) going forward.

Background

Recently, HV ABC failures have become more common across parts of the network. Whilst a number of inspection processes have been tested, it has been found to be challenging to detect these failure modes before they occur. Due to the design of HV ABC and the failure modes being witnessed, affected spans are difficult to repair in a way which provides long-term reliability performance. Records show repeated failures in the same sections, indicated the number of unassisted failures in these areas will continue to rise.

Currently, these failures are not widespread but are limited to specific areas of the network.

Actions

To manage the ongoing performance of HV ABC across the network, for all new unassisted failures of HV ABC (that occur from June 2025 onwards), the following strategy is to be applied.

Where a new unassisted failure occurs, in a section of conductor (between adjacent tension points) that has already had a previous failure (in the past two years) and that has been repaired (e.g. contains a joint), that section of HV ABC (between the adjacent tension points) is to be removed from the network and replaced with CCT.

Where the HV ABC cannot be rebuilt to CCT as part of the F&E response, a planned project is to be initiated (to allow design work to be completed and the replacement to be planned) to replace the impacted section of HV ABC.

This aims to avoid repeated repairs of the same section and multiple interruptions to customers.

Implementation

From the release of this Technical Bulletin going forward (for all new unassisted HV ABC failures) the asset management strategy above is to be implemented.

Contacts

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