

Insulation monitoring of high voltage electrical equipment

Kenta Kishida

Solution Group, Safety Inspection Department, Business Division

Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association



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- Introduction to the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association
- About high voltage accidents (failures)
- Introduction to a high voltage insulation monitoring system
- Examples of detection of signs of insulation degradation in high voltage insulation equipment



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Introduction to the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association

Management philosophy

"To provide maximum assurance by increasing the quality of safety with the best technologies and services."



Name: Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association (general foundation) Location of the Head Office: 11th Floor, Nakanoshima Daibiru, 3-3-23, Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu Date of establishment: December 1, 1965 Number of employees: 1,551 (as of March 31, 2024)

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Osaka

Japan



Voltage classes and classification of electric facilities in Japan





Chief electrical engineer system for Electric Facilities for Private Use

Obligations of business operators

- To appoint a qualified engineer as the chief electrical engineer.
- To submit notification of the appointed chief electrical engineer to the national government.
- Personnel engaged in work in the place of electric utility business shall follow the instructions given ٠ by the chief electrical engineer.

Qualification and role of the chief electrical engineer

- A license is issued by the national government based on an application filed by a person who has a ٠ specified academic record and practical work experience or a person who has passed a national examination.
- The engineer shall fulfill the duties of safety, inspection, and supervision concerning the work, maintenance, ٠ and operation of electric facilities.

System of approval of outsourcing of a chief electrical engineer

A place of business where high voltage electrical equipment is installed must appoint a chief electrical engineer pursuant to the laws and regulations. However, the place of business may avoid appoint of a chief electrical engineer, by concluding an outsourcing contract with a corporation or individual that meets certain requirements and by obtaining approval thereof from the administrative agency. The Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association performs safety, inspection, and management work of high voltage electrical equipment in place of customers, by utilizing this system of approval of outsourcing. fisuel seminar – 15 and 16 October 2024





Contents of the business of the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection

Association

Investigation business (Electric Facilities for General Use)

<Outsourcing from an electric power company>

Regular investigation

In general households and shops, investigation of electrical equipment is carried out regularly to see if the equipment complies with the technical standards specified by the national government, and the results of such investigation are notified to the customers.

Construction completion investigation

In the same manner as in regular investigation, investigation is carried out when constructing a new building or at the time of extension or renovation, and the results of such investigation are notified to the customers.

Public relations

business

Public relations activities

Raising awareness, familiarization, and consultation on electricity use safety in close coordination with local communities.

Various types of lecture meetings

Holding various types of lecture meetings on electrical safety inspection, by visiting ordinary companies including those accepting outsourcing, neighborhood associations, schools, etc. Safety and inspection business (Electric Facilities for Private Use) <Outsourcing from the business operator of a building or factory>

Chief electrical engineer outsourcing business

Safety, inspection, and management of high voltage power receiving equipment and part of the power generation equipment are performed.

Testing business

Inspection, measurement, and testing of the electrical equipment of a building or factory where there is a separate chief electrical engineer are performed. (Support business for such chief electrical engineer)

Work business

Electrical work

Performing electrical work such as equipment maintenance and energy saving measures, for customers concluding a contract with our Association.







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Results of dispatch to high voltage failures (accidents) of the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association

- Among the 2,115 cases of electrical failures (accidents) involving high voltage circuit power outage that occurred in the customers of the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association from 2021 to July 2024, 783 cases (37%) were caused by the activation of a ground fault protection relay.
- An electrical failure (accident) involving high voltage circuit power outage may affect a wide range in the premises of users, and at the same time may cause a ripple-effect accident^{*1}.
- It can be expected that response by detecting insulation degradation in a high voltage circuit in an early stage will lead to the prevention of an abrupt power outage accident such as the one stated above.

*1. An accident that causes power outage involving the surrounding places of business other than the customer.





What is a ground fault protection relay?

- Abnormal zero-phase current (hereinafter called lo) and zero-phase voltage (hereinafter called Vo) that occur during a ground fault are detected, and a disconnect signal is transmitted to the circuit breaker.
- Whether the failure is a ground fault in the premises or a fault in any other user is determined based on the phases of Io and Vo. Circuit breaker





About the methods of maintenance against ground fault accidents in a high voltage circuit

The methods of maintenance against ground fault accidents in a high voltage circuit can roughly be classified as follows.

	Insulation resistance value	Function	Contents
Preventive maintenance	100 GΩ to 100 MΩ	Diagnosis	Equipment diagnosis •Insulation resistance measurement •Direct current diagnosis
	200 k Ω or less	Monitoring	Monitoring system •Real-time monitoring of insulation resistance with live lines
Breakdown maintenance	20 kΩ or less	Protection	Protection system •Separation of accident points by using a ground fault protection relay and a circuit breaker (switchgear) (prevention of expansion of a ground fault)

 In maintenance by using a monitoring system, the deterioration state of a high voltage circuit is detected in a stage before the protection system is activated. Therefore, it is possible to prevent a loss caused by sudden power outage.



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Introduction to a high voltage insulation monitoring system

What is a high voltage insulation monitoring system?

- The system always measures very small currents and voltages that present the signs of insulation deterioration, and when any abnormality has occurred, it gives notice by means of an alarm.
- It analyzes abnormal phenomena that become the signs of an accident, and estimates the areas of failure.
- It contributes to the prevention of accidents and to early response in the event of an accident, by always monitoring the insulation.

High voltage insulation

	History of I Kansai F	high voltage insulation monitoring at the				
	Ransar E	Rectification Association				
	1987	Started the development of a high voltage insulation monitoring system.				
	1995 Put the high voltage insulation monitoring services into operation.					
	1997 The Shibusawa Prize was awarded to the Association.					
	1999 Received a patent (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 11- 271384)					
	2005	Started multi-functional monitoring such as low voltage insulation, instantaneous interruption, analog monitoring, etc., in addition to high voltage insulation monitoring.				
	2010 Posted in the Standard Construction Specifications of MLIT.					
4	2021	Started waveform analysis by means of the AI waveform analysis technique.				
	April 2022	Released high voltage monitoring for multiple circuits.				
	July 2023	Released high voltage monitoring for single circuits.				
	In the Kansai voltage insul	region, about 2,000 customers have adopted the high ation monitoring services.				





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Facilities subjected to great damage caused by power outage, such as factories with production lines, calculation centers, complex buildings, public facilities, and general hospitals

interviewing the customer.



Principle of detection of the high voltage insulation state of the Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association (New Technology)

The principle of the high voltage insulation monitoring system is roughly classified into three features: (1) Ground fault resistance monitoring (Rg monitoring), (2) Io pulse monitoring, and (3) Fault circuit distinction.

- (1) Ground fault resistance monitoring (Rg monitoring)
 - In a common ground fault relay, monitoring is performed by using to that is detected in a zero-phase current transformer, whereas our Association has enabled detection of ground fault currents with higher accuracy, by means of vector calculations (subtracting currents unrelated to insulation).
- (2) Io pulse monitoring
 - Ground fault with high fault resistance detection function when intermittent arcing has occurred in a high voltage cable
- (3) Fault circuit distinction

Ground fault resistance monitoring (Rg monitoring) of a high voltage insulation monitoring system





) Principle of the ground fault resistance monitoring (Rg monitoring)

When it has been detected that the value of ground fault resistance Rg is equal to or less than the set value for monitoring, an alarm goes off.

ltem	Details
Overview	Zero-phase voltage Vo and zero-phase current lo are measured, and the premises constant is calculated from the portion of change in these values.
Condition of occurrence	When ground fault resistance Rg in calculation is reduced to a value less than the monitoring level (200 k Ω)

The value of ground fault resistance Rg is obtained by the following calculation.

$$R_{g} = \frac{V_{Rg}}{I_{g}} = \frac{\sqrt{e_{a}^{2} - V_{o}^{2}}}{I_{g}} = \frac{\sqrt{3810^{2} - V_{o}^{2}}}{I_{g}}$$

Io: Zero-phase current detected by the zero-phase

Ic:

Va

 $Ca_2 Cb_2 Cc_2 Rg$

Current unrelated to insulation that flows through the premises admittance to ground Y $= \omega C$ due to Vo in the distribution line

$$(I_g = I_o + \underline{Y} \cdot \underline{V_o} - \underline{I_f})$$

Current unrelated to insulation that is generated by imbalance of the premises capacitances to ground (Ca2,Cb2,Cc2)

Current unrelated to insulation

Ig: Ground fault current

6.6 kV ungrounded neutral system (High voltage service entrance power receiving system in Japan)

Io

ZPD

current transforme

Ca Cb Cc

ea

Rn

ec

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(2) Principle of lo pulse monitoring

ltem	Details
Overview	The large current pulses of lo are detected.
Condition of occurrence	They are generated when both of the following two conditions are met (AND condition). 1.When detecting the number of pulses greater than the pulse count value that has been set at either of the positive and negative (+, -) polarities, during one cycle of commercial frequency 2.During lo measurement overflow (An instantaneous peak value is about 10 Ap or more)

ltem	Set value (initial value)		
Number of pulses counted	0 to 255 (3)		

During insulation degradation of the high voltage cable, the following characteristic lo waveform appears.

Features of waveform	Waveform	Features
Pulsed		Steep waveform involving needle-like or free vibration that occurs during an extremely short period of time A lightning surge and a switching surge have such waveform, including the waveform in a high voltage cable, etc. (The lightning surge and switching surge are distinguished from the periodicity of waveform or from the features of the preceding and succeeding waveforms.)

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Example of installation of a high pressure insulation monitoring system



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Example of installation of a high pressure insulation monitoring system





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Features of lo alarm waveform





Example of characteristic alarm waveform (contact with other objects)

(Contact of a vine with the energized part) A vine entered the inside of power receiving N1-「京都南GC」つた接触-021303717-040913192013a.das] : Rg低下] [トリガ日時:04/09/13 19:20:13] [装置Ver.10.40] equipment and contacted its energized part. No power outage occurred due to the very mð small ground fault. Io Ιd СНО 2048 Vo v 判 定 Alarm waveform

Area of the ground fault

- 🗆 ×

<mark>──16</mark>──波 ·FFT Data ─

波形 = 18

Io 139mA 264度

Vo

41V 223度 位相差 41度

構内地絡

構内事故

構外事故

印刷 終了



Examples of signs of electrical equipment failure captured by a high voltage

insulation monitoring system and alarms

<Example of simultaneous detection of abnormality with a power outage accident>

	Customer	Response to abnormal phenomena	Status photo	Alarm waveform	Remarks
1	Resin factory Power receiving capacity: 1,700 kVA (Date and time of alarm occurrence: September 13, 2021 at 22:43) Automatic cause analysis: "Small animal: gecko, etc."	An accident of burn due to a ground fault and a short circuit caused by contact of a gecko with the potential transformer inside the outdoor cubicle Response: Tentative recovery on September 15, 2021; full-fledged recovery implemented in the following month	Severely burnt equipment and the gecko that contacted the energized part (in the red frame)		Early recovery is possible even when a power outage accident occurs, because the cause can be identified in a short period of time by the high voltage insulation monitoring system.

<Example of the prevention of a power outage accident by capturing its signs before the occurrence of such accident>

2	Industrial waste treatment plant Power receiving capacity: 3,437 kVA (Date and time of alarm occurrence: June 12, 2020 at 07:42) Automatic cause analysis: "Insulation	Insulation degradation caused by dirt on the epoxy resin inside the outdoor cubicle Response: Replacement of about 100 pieces of the applicable insulators on June 30, 2020	Insulators of which insulation degradation		If the insulators were left as they were Power outage would occur in the entire plant and recovery could require several hours. There was an example of a similar phenomenon in which the signs were captured by the occurrence of an alarm and the epoxy resin insulators having pool insulation were removed. (April 23, 2024)
	analysis: "Insulation degradation: Dirt on equipment Insulators"	June 30, 2020		11 2	insulation were removed. (April 23, 2024)



Examples of signs of electrical equipment failure captured by a high voltage insulation monitoring system and alarms

<Example of the prevention of a power outage accident by capturing its signs before the occurrence of such accident>

	Customer	Response to abnormal phenomena	Status photo	Alarm waveform	Remarks
3	Complex commercial facility Power receiving capacity: 3,300 kVA (Date and time of alarm occurrence: November 16, 2021 at 11:32) Automatic cause analysis: "Insulation degradation: Dirt on equipment"	Insulation deterioration caused by dirt on the high voltage vacuum circuit breaker inside the rooftop cubicle Response: Replacement of the circuit breaker	Inside of the dirty equipment		If the circuit breaker was left as it was Power outage would occur in the entire building and recovery could require several hours.
4	Child care facility Power receiving capacity: 1,100 kVA (Date and time of alarm occurrence: April 28, 2023 at 06:46) Automatic cause analysis: "Insulation degradation: Cable"	Insulation degradation of a high voltage cable (line length : 230 m, 38 mm ²) Response: Replacement of the cable on June 9, 2023 (The insulation degradation (insulation resistance value: less than 1 G Ω) was found during the replacement.)	High voltage cable of which insulation degradation occurred (inside the manhole)		If the cable was left as it was Power outage would occur in the entire building and recovery could require several hours.



Detection of the signs of high voltage cable dielectric breakdown

- Date and time of occurrence: August 26, 2021 (Thu.) Weather: fine
- Place of occurrence: Certain private combined middle and high school
- Overview:
- The said customer was found to have insulation degradation of a high voltage cable for power receiving in the annual inspection carried out on August 14, and activation of the abnormal alarm of the high voltage insulation monitoring started on August 17. This case was the first activation of the high voltage abnormality alarm at this customer, and replacement work was scheduled to be performed on September 5 (Sunday).
- On August 26, i.e. 9 days before the date scheduled for the replacement work, dielectric breakdown occurred in the said cable, and power
 outage occurred in the entire premises. However, since preparation for the cable replacement work had been made, after the accident, recovery
 work was completed in several hours.





Example of non-activation of a ground fault relay in a high voltage cable dielectric breakdown accident

1. Overview of the accident

- Date of occurrence: December 11, 2020 (Fri.)
- Place of occurrence: (Public facility)
- Situation: Dielectric breakdown occurred in the high voltage cable in a manhole, which ignited combustible gases, and the lid of the manhole opened and was laid upside down. However, the ground fault relay was not activated, and no power outage occurred in the distribution line as well. (As a result of measurement of the high voltage cable insulation resistance (G measurement), the value was 0.01 GΩ at 6 kV in the 3 wires together: cable defect.)

Recovery was made by replacing the said sable on December 13 (Sun.).

- High voltage underground cable: manufactured in 2010, line length: 145 m, size: 60 mm³
- Others: The cause of the occurrence of combustible gases was unknown (gas measurement was made at a later date, but no gases were detected). The dielectric breakdown of the cable was caused by water treeing.

State of the lid of the manhole being laid upside down



State of the inside of the manhole

Pinhole

position





*: Usually, when the continuation time of a ground fault accidents reaches 0.5 seconds or more, the ground fault protection relay on the distribution line (on the side of the electric power company's substation) is activated, and power outage of the distribution line occurs.

In the above case, we presume that no power outage of the distribution line occurred because the continuation time of the ground fault current was about 0.4 seconds (24 cycles). (See the figure on the right.)



Example of non-activation of a ground fault relay in a high voltage cable dielectric breakdown accident

2. Reason for the non-activation of the ground fault protection relay

The pulsed intermittent arcing ground fault that is peculiar to a high voltage cable accident has a time band in which the ground fault disappears as shown in the figure on the right, and it is considered that the time required for activation of the ground fault relay was not reached.

[Opinion of the manufacturer of the ground fault protection relay]

During detection of a ground fault current, if the time band in which the ground fault disappears is less than 0.04 seconds, the count is stopped, and so the relay would act as though the activation time has been prolonged.



Enlargement of the X-axis In the example shown in the figure below, during the continuation time of the ground fault, there is the time band in which the ground fault disappears (,), and the time band is not counted into the activation time of the ground fault protection relay.



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If you have information on good practices with new technologies utilizing Al/IoT, kindly share such information with us forwarding the following email address.

Kansai Electrical Safety Inspection Association E-mail: setsuden@ksdh.or.jp









From this current, the voltage of each phase can be measured (at the same time, Vo can be calculated).

Advantages of the 3CT method

- (1) Cost reduction corresponding to the portion of ZPD
- (2) Improved reliability (decrease in the number of pieces of high voltage connection equipment)
- (3) Reduction of the installation work time (power outage time)

Challenges of the 3CT method

(1) Very small shield ground line current => Contrivances in circuit design, antinoise measures, compensation in line with CT characteristics, etc.

(2) Accurate capacitance measurement => Since calculation from the catalog value and the cable length involves a large error, dedicated measuring

equipment shall be developed separately.



Capacitance is calculated from the current flowing through the shield ground wire of the high voltage cable.



Principle of calculation of Vo (3CT)

Vo is calculated by detecting the voltage to ground for each phase individually.

Calculation of the voltage to ground of each phase





High voltage insulation monitoring

Calculation of the zero-phase voltage (V_0)

$$\dot{V}_{0} = \frac{\dot{E}_{A} + \dot{E}_{B} + \dot{E}_{C}}{3}$$

$$I_{sa} \cdot I_{sb} \cdot I_{sc}$$

$$C_{A} \cdot C_{B} \cdot C_{C}$$

- : Shield current of each phase (CT secondary side)
- Capacitance to ground of phase A, B, C

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Principle of resistance ground fault (Rg monitoring)



Cited from the High Voltage Power Receiving Equipment Regulations JEAC8011-2014



Principle of resistance ground fault (Rg monitoring)

The second term in equation (6): Y*Vo is the current that outflows through the capacitance to ground in the premises due to Vo in the distribution line, which is unrelated to insulation.

The third term If in equation (6) does not include Vo, which is the current that flows without reference to the ground fault accident. Since this is several mA or below, generally no emphasis is placed on it. However, in high voltage insulation monitoring, the current that should be detected is several dozens of mA, and so the influence of If cannot be disregarded.

Based on the foregoing, in high voltage monitoring, the second and third terms are obtained by the following method. In the state without any ground fault, if Vo, Io are generated by an external factor, and when the former Vo1,Io1 have been changed to Vo2,Io2, since no ground fault has occurred, by assuming that Ig=0 in equation (6), the following can be obtained.

$$I_{01} = -Y \cdot V_{01} + I_{f} \cdots (8)$$

$$I_{02} = -Y \cdot V_{02} + I_{f} \cdots (9)$$

From (8) - (9), we obtain: $I_{01} - I_{02} = -Y \cdot (V_{01} - V_{02})$

$$\dot{\mathbf{Y}} = \frac{-(\mathbf{I}_{01} - \mathbf{I}_{02})}{\mathbf{V}_{01} - \mathbf{V}_{02}}, \quad \mathbf{I}_{f} = \frac{\mathbf{I}_{02} \cdot \mathbf{V}_{01} - \mathbf{I}_{01} \cdot \mathbf{V}_{02}}{\mathbf{V}_{01} - \mathbf{V}_{02}}$$



When residual components have been measured to be equal to or greater than the default values, Vo,Io at that time shall be used for the calculation.

Ground fault not affected by the residual components $Ig = Io + Y \cdot Vo - If$

The second term Y and the third term If are called the premises constants, and when Vo fluctuations above a certain value have occurred, the monitoring system automatically measures and calculates the constants, and uses them as the fixed values inside the high voltage monitoring system.

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Abnormal waveform due to disturbances

Waveform of induced overvoltages due to nearby stroke



- Since random waveform is generated without reference to the power supply cycle, there is no periodicity, and the magnitude is also varied.
- When viewed by enlarging the time, triangular vibration waveform appears that resembles that with the high voltage cable.

Waveform of a switching surge



- Pulsed waveform in an extremely short period of time around 1/8 can be seen, and then the waveform returns to normal one.
- In the example shown above, before and after the switching waveform, increases in capacitance can be seen.

The cause can also be estimated based on information such as meteorological information (lightning) and interviewing the customer (operation of the high voltage circuit).