



POLICY INSTRUCTION

Montreal Protocol – Use of SF6 in Electrical Distribution Switchgear

Number: PI 06/10

Property Directorate Sponsor: Raymond Dickinson

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Who Should Read this: All personnel responsible for the planning, design, installation, operation and maintenance of electrical assets on the defence estate, specifically Project Managers and other MOD staff, their agents, consultants, contractors and sub-contractors.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: When advised

Sustainable Development

Equality And Diversity Impact Assessment

This policy has been Equality and Diversity Impact Assessed in accordance with the Department's Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment Tool against:

Part 1 Assessment Only (no diversity impact found).

1. **Document Aim.** The aim of this Policy Instruction is to provide updated authoritative guidance on MOD policy in the use of electrical distribution switchgear¹ containing SF6.

2. **Background**

2.1 Technical Bulletin (TB) 02/14 advised that a case had been successfully made to the Montreal Protocol Task Force for the suppression of the restrictions on the use of any new and existing electrical distribution switchgear containing SF6. The TB applied to Ring Main Units (RMUs) and

¹ Electrical Distribution Switchgear in the context of this Policy Instruction refers to Ring Main Units and other extensible or non extensible outdoor switchgear used for secondary HV Distribution only.

other extensible or non-extensible outdoor switchgear used only for secondary high voltage (HV) distribution. The implication was that the use of SF6 in secondary HV distribution switchgear was permitted on the MOD estate.

- 2.2 Following the issue of TB 02/14, DE has continued to receive enquiries on the use of HV switchgear containing SF6 from Project Managers, contractors, consultants and Maintenance Management Organisations (MMOs).
- 2.3 This subject has been discussed in depth with the Sustainable Development Team, MOD Main Building and this updated guidance is issued based on the agreed policy.
- 2.4 This Policy Instruction therefore replaces TB 02/14 which is withdrawn with immediate effect.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Until further notice, RMUs and other extensible or non-extensible outdoor switchgear used for secondary HV distribution containing SF6 may be used for both indoor and outdoor applications. This policy shall apply until a suitable, safer alternative, such as outdoor vacuum RMUs, become available on the market. Currently there are none available.
- 3.2 New or replacement indoor Primary HV Switchgear² containing SF6 shall not be used; the preference is for vacuum circuit breakers/interrupters.
- 3.3 The responsible authority and MMOs are to follow the requirements for responsible management as detailed at Paragraphs 60-62 of JSP 418 Volume 2, Leaflet 5.

² Primary HV Switchgear in the context of this Policy Instruction refers to the site's HV Intake Switchgear.