



HEAT RUN TEST ON Neutral Grounding Resistor (NGR)

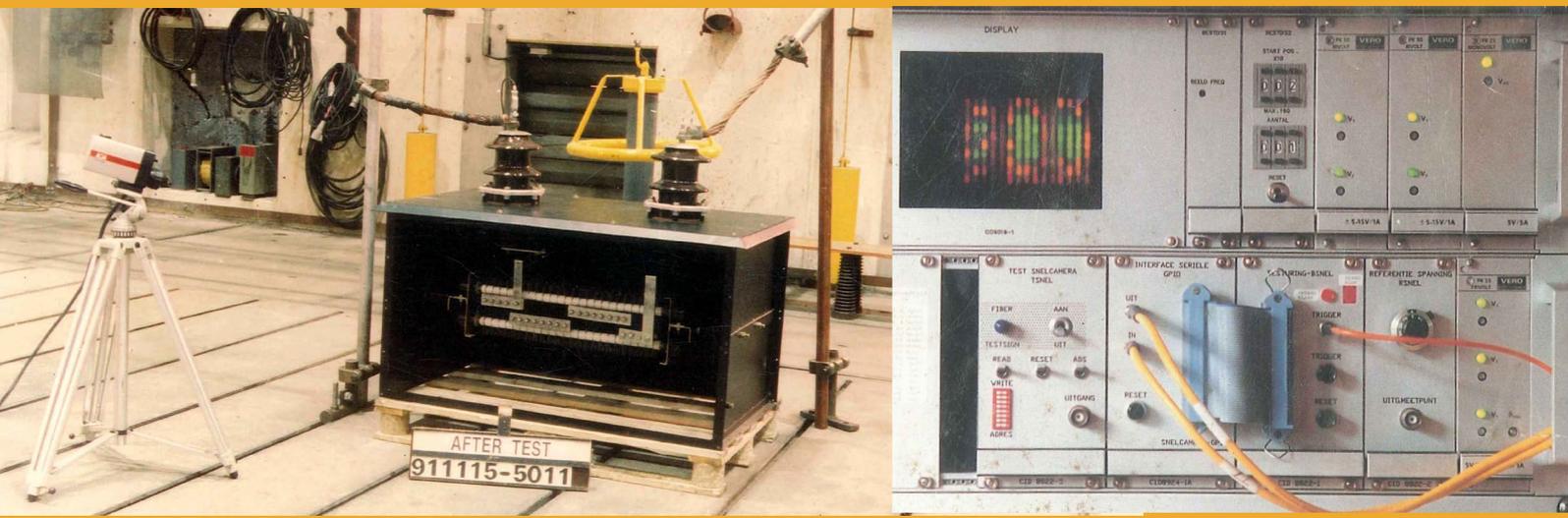


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Heat run test is an essential test for the continuous satisfactory performance of the Electrical equipments.



If the equipment is having any hidden quality problems the test reveals the defect by abnormal temperature rise. Most of the Electrical equipments and components undergo Temperature rise test specified by the Electrical standards and specifications.

In a laboratory or an industry injecting rated current to the equipment is always a challenge. Measurement of temperature rise is to be very accurate and appropriate measuring instruments should be also available.

The limitation of conducting the test, therefore, rests on the availability of source voltage and power to drive the required current. It is not feasible to conduct the test if adequate source is not available with testing Agency.

The issue is much more complicated in the case of short time rated equipments like Neutral Grounding Resistors. The NGR is usually rated for 5/10 /30 sec. The current and resistance values are normally very high. Finding a source for injecting high current to high resistance load for a short duration has many impediments. The problem is further more compounded in measuring the temperature rise for duration as low as 5 or 30 sec. Conventional measuring instruments like Thermocouple may not reveal the actual temperature within a short duration of 30 sec due to thermal inertia.

Hence, most of the renowned laboratories in the world do not undertake the Temperature rise test on NGR. We have approached KEMA, ASTA, PEHLA (Germany), CPRI (India), etc and enclosed our queries and their replies are in Annexure-I. They have categorically stated that it is not possible for them.

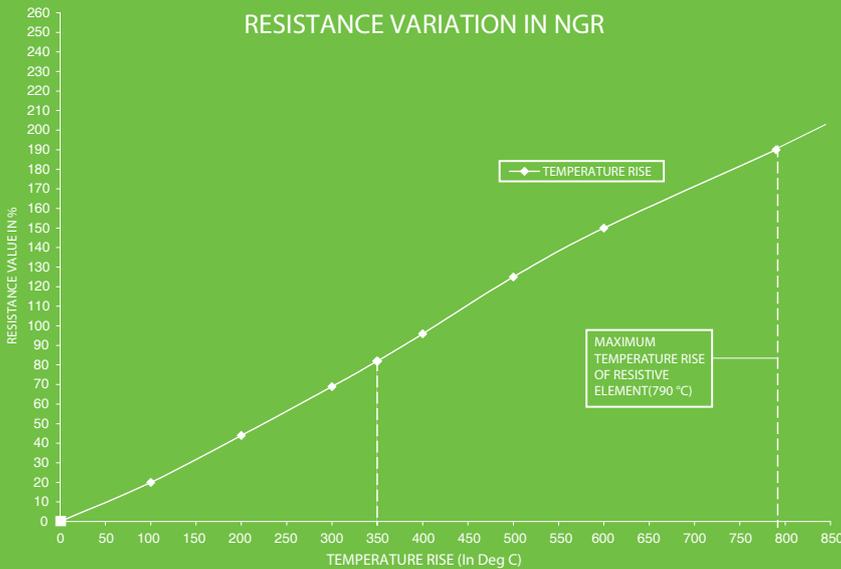
The NGR is designed and constructed in accordance with standard IEEE-32. Heat run test for NGR has been omitted in the standard which calls for only Routine Tests and they are:-

- (a) Measurement of Ohmic value
- (b) Dielectric test, excluding Impulse test

The disadvantages are :-

1. The test is again restricted by availability of source
2. When the resistive elements are stacked in actual assembly the heat transfer coefficient is different from a single element .
3. The temperature measurement may not be accurate in view of short duration

Considering all the above factors we have approached KEMA for a Heat run test on a Partial Resistance assembly which is housed in a proportionate enclosure. A study current was arranged to pass through the resistance assembly. Here again we faced a problem. The resistive element is made out of stainless steel grade which is having very poor Temperature coefficient of Resistance, viz, 0.001. Assuming the system voltage as constant, the variation in resistance with respect to temperature rise is given in the following graph.



Testing the resistive element under constant rated current requires variable voltage source which is very difficult to arrange .KEMA have come out with a solution and they have connected high impedance and high current Inductive coil connected in series with the NGR. By this arrangement the constant current is maintained through out the test.

Second task is to measure the temperature in a short period of 10 sec. KEMA with the help of Philips, Netherlands arranged a thermal recorder to detect temperature with an accuracy of 0.1 sec using Nitrogen filled cameras.

The above set up was finalized and our NGR was tested. The results are given in Figure-1, and also test certificates can be downloaded from our website. The result was again analyzed by metallurgical methods to double check the temperature rise.

The results are within the parameters prescribed and it also validated our design calculation. The tests are so important as all other coefficients for Heat transfer have been derived accurately.

Our tests find a special place in house magazine of KEMA.

Though the tests were conducted in 1991 the same tests cannot repeated now as it requires elaborate equipments and systems. This is the reason why KEMA and other laboratories have declined to undertake such tests.

National Switchgears have supplied more than 20,000 NGR s all over the world and the design conforms to IEEE-32 and the design parameters have been adopted in all cases.



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