April 12, 2022

Proposed Changes to IEEE Std. CS7.12.90-2021 to support proposed changes for PD Testing of Class I power transformers.

10.7 Induced-voltage tests for distribution and Class I power transformers when partial discharge testing is not specifically requested

10.8 Induced-voltage test for Class II power transformers and Class I power transformers, when partial discharge testing is specifically requested

10.8.1 General

Each Class II power transformer, and Class I power transformer, when partial discharge testing is specifically requested, shall receive an induced-voltage test with the required test levels induced in the high-voltage winding. The tap connections shall be chosen, when possible, so that test levels developed in the other windings during the one-hour test are x times their maximum operating voltages, as specified in Table 4 of IEEE Std C57.12.00-2021, where x (also referred to as the "overvoltage factor" in the text that follows) is the ratio of the test voltage on the high-voltage winding to the maximum operating voltage.

For a transformer built with a single magnetic core holding all windings, all windings are excited at a unique induction level, often referred to as "volts-per-turn." During an induced-voltage test, with the transformer connected and excited as in service, all windings are excited at the same overvoltage factor, regardless of what tap is selected. Each winding turn receives the same voltage. The tap connections shall be chosen, when possible, such that voltages developed across other windings meet or exceed the required overvoltage factor.

The situation is quite different when transformers are equipped with auxiliary devices with separate magnetic cores, such as preventive autotransformer (reactor), series (booster) transformer, or series regulator. Different magnetic cores can be excited at different levels during operation or testing. In certain tap positions, these auxiliary devices do not have their core excited at all and no voltage appears across their windings. For such cases, the selection of the tap-changer position shall be guided by the principles described below. One exception is when such auxiliary devices are not excited on a permanent basis but used only as transitional devices. If equalizing windings are used, the highest voltage impressed across the preventive autotransformer will occur in either the bridging or non-bridging positions. This is because the preventive autotransformer is energized in all tap positions (bridging and non-bridging).

NOTE 1-Equalizing windings are described in IEEE Std C57.131 and IEC 60214-1.

For transformers equipped with a series (booster) transformer, preventive autotransformer (reactor), or any other device, the selected tap position of the load tap-changer (LTC) shall be the one that produces the highest voltage across the windings of the series transformer, preventive autotransformer, and other auxiliary devices as applicable. There can be a conflict of choosing such a tap position when more than one such device is present. In such a case, the selected tap

position of the LTC should be the best compromise so that all devices are tested with overvoltage. One common example is the case where a series transformer and preventive autotransformer are both present. In this case, the tap selected shall be the one that is closest to the position that produces the highest voltage across the windings of the series transformer and simultaneously excites the preventive autotransformer, which is typically a bridging position (not applicable when the preventive autotransformer is energized only during transition).

In order to test the series (booster) transformer, preventive autotransformer, and other devices, at the required minimum overvoltage factor, the voltage developed on the terminals of other windings may exceed the one-hour level mentioned in Table 4 of IEEE Std C57.12.00-2021. In such cases, an alternative tap position may be selected by agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser to avoid overstressing components such as bushings. Annex D shows examples that can serve as a guide to select the LTC tap position for transformers having series (booster) transformer and/or preventive autotransformers.

For certain types of devices such as series reactors used as current limiting devices, there is no voltage developed across their windings during the induced voltage test as these devices are only excited when current flows in their windings. There is no option available to apply any overvoltage for these devices during the induced test.

NOTE 2-The selection of the tap-changer position for induced test should be agreed upon between manufacturer and purchaser prior to design to avoid conflicts during final acceptance tests.

10.8.2 Test procedure

The voltage shall first be raised to the one-hour level and held for a minimum of 1 min or until a stable partial discharge level is obtained to verify that there are no partial discharge problems. The level of partial discharges shall be recorded just before raising the voltage to the enhancement level. The voltage shall then be raised to the enhancement level and held for 7200 cycles. The voltage shall then be reduced directly to the one-hour level and held for 1 h. During this 1 h period, partial discharge measurements shall be made at 5 min intervals. Partial discharge acceptance criteria shall be based on each line terminal rated 69 kV and above. For Class I power transformers partial discharge acceptance criteria shall be based on the highest rated voltage terminal. These measurements shall be made in accordance with 10.9.

The pressure inside the transformer tank during the induced test shall not be increased by artificial means for the purpose of reducing the PD level. The liquid level and pressure inside of the transformer tank and/or conservator tank shall be configured such that the oil head pressure during the induced test does not exceed the pressure under usual service conditions. Any exceptions that increase tank pressure by more than 3.5 kPa (0.5 psi) over normal operating pressure, such as the use of an elevated test facility conservator tank, requires customer approval prior to test. A note shall be added to the certified test report confirming this approval.

NOTE-Increasing the pressure for diagnostic purposes, such as to identify and possibly reduce suspected bubbles in the liquid, may be done as a remedial step to diagnose a source of high PD. To be considered valid, the test needs to be repeated with no added pressure as stated previously.

10.8.3 Connections

The transformer shall be excited exactly as it will be in service. The voltage may be induced from any winding or from special windings or taps provided for test purposes. Single-phase transformers shall be excited from single-phase sources. Three-phase transformers shall be excited from three-phase sources. The neutral terminals and other terminals that are normally grounded in service shall be solidly grounded. This will stress all of the insulation at the same per unit of overstress.

10.8.4 Frequency

The test frequency shall be increased, relative to operating frequency, as required to avoid core saturation. The requirements in 10.7.2 are also applicable in the case of this induced test.

10.8.5 Failure detection

Failure may be indicated by the presence of smoke and bubbles rising in the insulating liquid, an audible sound such as a thump, or a sudden increase in the test current. Any such indication shall be carefully investigated by observation, by repeating the test, and by other diagnostic tests to determine whether a failure has occurred. In terms of interpretation of partial discharge measurements, the results shall be considered acceptable and no further partial discharge tests required under the following conditions:

10.8.5.1 Class II Power Transformer

a) The magnitude of the partial discharge level does not exceed 250 pC during the 1 h test period.

b) The increase in partial discharge levels during the 1 h period does not exceed 50 pC.

c) The partial discharge levels during the 1 h period do not exhibit any steadily rising trend, and no sudden sustained increase in the levels occurs during the last 20 min of the test.

10.8.5.2 Class I Power Transformer

a) The magnitude of the partial discharge level does not exceed 500 pC during the 1 h test period.

b) The increase in partial discharge levels during the 1 h period does not exceed 150 pC.

c) The partial discharge levels during the 1 h period do not exhibit any steadily rising trend, and no sudden sustained increase in the levels occurs during the last 20 min of the test.

10.8.5.3 General

Judgment should be used on the 5-rnin readings so that momentary excursions of the partial

discharge readings caused by cranes or other ambient sources are not recorded. Also, the test may be extended or repeated until acceptable results are obtained.

A failure to meet the partial discharge acceptance criterion shall not warrant immediate rejection, but it shall lead to consultation between purchaser and manufacturer about further investigations.