

Tickling the SPD nerve

“With Surge Protection Devices (SPD) becoming increasingly common in installations it is surely time that there was an accepted test to confirm their efficacy” said Brendan Beaver, the manager of Metrel UK Ltd, the manufacturer of innovative test solutions.

“The manufacturers say that they are 100% tested before they leave the factory, but it is not hugely reassuring to the installer whose insurance take on liability once they supply and install the SPD. Furthermore we know they deteriorate with repeated overvoltage episodes; so how should it be tested as it ages? We know that electrical engineers are not going to want to buy the complex and expensive testers the SPD industry sells. They are going to want an additional function on their existing tester”

“Metrel multi-function testers have for more than 10 years offered a ramp facility on the insulation test which gives the ability to test varistors and some SPDs in the field.”

“Maybe it is time that the powers that be recommend a test protocol which could be incorporated in all multi-function testers!”

Image caption

MTE45 fig 1- Testing a surge protection device with a ramping insulation test.

Notes: *Metrel is one of the oldest manufactures of electrical test equipment having been established over 60 years ago. An innovation leader, it produces test equipment for HV and LV applications, including power quality, earth analysis and transformer analysis.*

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