

ASP Safety Alert Network Compliance and Authorisations

Alert Number: SA17_19

26 November 2019

Subject: Schneider 1000kVA & 1500kVA City & Suburban (Chamber Type) Transformers – Lifting Hazard

Key Messages

Due to undersized lifting lugs on Schneider 1000kVA & 1500kVA City & Suburban (chamber type) Transformers, the following instructions should be applied to avoid damage when lifting.

Description of incident or hazard:

Recently Ausgrid has been notified of a number of incidents where transformers delivered have suffered tank damage and oil leaks during lifting and installation.

Since 2017 Schneider have redesigned the lifting lugs of their 1000kVA and 1500kVA City & Suburban (chamber type) transformers where the lifting lug thickness was reduced from 20mm to 10mm. This design change has reduced mechanical strength of the tank which is required for the safe lifting.

Schneider advise these transformers are not considered safe to re-lift from their damaged lugs and they are preparing a safe method for future lifting of these transformers (i.e. at the end of life, failure replacement, transformer decommissioning or upgrade).



Figure 1: Distorted 10mm thick lifting lug



Figure 2: Distorted 10mm thick lifting lug, and damaged tank lid weld.

Immediate action required to eliminate or control the risk:

Transformers that have been identified of having the 10mm design, that have not been installed or commissioned, are to be returned to the manufacturer for repairs.

Before lifting Schneider 1000kVA and 1500kVA City & Suburban (chamber type) transformers:

Check manufacturing date of the transformer from the nameplate. If manufactured post 2017, measure the transformer lifting lug thickness and if the thickness is less than 20mm, or if there is visible damage to the lug, the transformer should not be lifted. Notify Schneider and request advice.

ASPs to communicate to all authorised employees, supervisors and project managers the requirements for lifting Schneider 1000kVA and 1500kVA City & Suburban (chamber type) transformers.

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Useful Links

- ASP information : <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/ASPs-and-Contractors>
- General Information notices : <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/ASPs-and-Contractors/News-and-alerts/GI-notice>
- Safety Alerts : <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/ASPs-and-Contractors/News-and-alerts/Safety-alerts>