

NEMA AB 4

GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTION AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF MOLDED CASE CIRCUIT BREAKERS USED IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

NEMA Standards Publication AB 4-2009

*Guidelines for Inspection and Preventive Maintenance
of Molded Case Circuit Breakers Used in
Commercial and Industrial Applications*

Published by:

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Foreword

This NEMA Standards Publication supersedes and fully replaces NEMA Standards Publication AB 4-2003. To ensure that a meaningful publication was being developed, draft copies were sent to a number of individuals and organizations in the public sector having an interest in or responsibility for the purchase, testing, application, use, and preventive maintenance of these products. Their resulting comments and suggestions provided a vital user and general interest input prior to final NEMA approval and resulted in a number of substantive changes in this publication. This publication will be periodically reviewed by the Molded Case Circuit Breaker Voting Classification of NEMA for any revisions necessary to keep it up to date with advancing technology. Proposed or recommended revisions should be submitted to:

Vice President, Technical Services
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This Standards Publication was developed by the Molded Case Circuit Breaker Voting Classification of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. Approval of this standard does not necessarily imply that all voting classification members voted for its approval or participated in its development. At the time it was approved, the Molded Case Circuit Breaker Voting Classification had the following members:

ABB Control, Inc.—Wichita Falls, TX
Eaton Corporation—Pittsburgh, PA
General Electric—Plainville, CT
Moeller Electric Corporation—Franklin, MA
Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc.—Alpharetta, GA
Square D Company—Palatine, IL



Introduction

ANSI/NEMA AB 4 deals with “Guidelines for Inspection and Preventive Maintenance of Molded Case Circuit Breakers used in Commercial and Industrial Applications.” These guidelines are to be used to identify circuit breakers requiring maintenance or replacement. Good practice includes periodic circuit breaker maintenance during plant shutdown or during a regular maintenance period as specified, for example, in NFPA 70B. When a circuit breaker operates automatically, good practice dictates that the source of the overcurrent should be located, and if it is suspected that the operation was at or near the interrupting rating, the circuit breaker’s condition should be checked prior to circuit re-energization.

When appropriately maintained, molded case circuit breakers provide reliable protection for many years. The exact lifetime of the breaker, however, is determined by the circuit breaker’s operational duty and by its environment.

With respect to operational duty, for some circuits there will be occasional overload conditions or low-current fault conditions. Here, the operating life will be tens of years. In other circuits, there may be high short-circuit-current faults but it should be noted that bolted faults at the breaker interrupting rating are rarely encountered. These will reduce the circuit breaker’s operating life and may necessitate circuit breaker replacement. Molded case circuit breakers are evaluated to the UL 489 (NEMA AB 1) standard *Molded-Case Circuit Breakers, Molded-Case Switches and Circuit-Breaker Enclosures*. They are subjected to thousands of endurance test operations (UL 489 Table 7.1.5.1); 50 overload test operations for circuit breakers rated up to 1600A and 25 operations for circuit breakers rated 2000A and higher (UL 489 Table 7.1.3.1); 3 to 7 interrupting tests, depending on breaker type, at limited fault current (UL 489 Table 7.1.7.1, 7.1.7.2, and 7.1.7.3); and two interrupting tests at maximum short-circuit-current rating. Thus circuit breakers have an extensive but finite interrupting capability, and breakers that experience multiple high short-circuit-current faults should receive a thorough inspection with replacement if necessary.

With respect to environmental effects, circuit breakers are sometimes exposed to high ambient temperatures, to high humidity, and to other ambient conditions that are hostile to long term performance. For example, industries may have corrosive environments or could be associated with dusty environments that could affect operating parts.

It is not intended that molded case circuit breakers be disassembled for inspection. Rather, NEMA AB 4 should be referenced during periodic maintenance or during specific inspection following a high short-circuit-current fault. This document is intended to ensure that molded case circuit breakers are well maintained, and provides guidelines for circuit breaker replacement.

This document is divided into separate clauses as follows:

Clause 1 presents the Scope and reference standards.

Clause 2 details the safety procedures to be followed.

Clause 3 deals with general guidance.

Clause 4 deals with Inspection Procedures and describes thermal checks (4.2) and visual checks (4.3) of the enclosure and circuit breaker condition. Overheating of the circuit breaker would necessitate further investigation, and cracks in the molded case would certainly necessitate circuit breaker replacement.

Clause 5 deals with Preventive Maintenance and ensures that the circuit breaker’s life is not compromised by external conditions. The objectives are that the circuit breaker operates in a clean environment and that the terminals are in good condition (5.2), that interchangeable trip units are connected properly (5.3), and that wire connectors are in good condition and are correctly torqued (5.4).

Clause 6 deals with non-destructive Test Procedures that can be used to verify specific operating characteristics of molded case circuit breakers. These include Mechanical Operation Test (6.2), Insulation Resistance Test (6.3), Individual Pole Resistance Test (millivolt drop test) (6.4), Inverse Time Overcurrent

Test (6.5), Instantaneous Overcurrent Trip Test (6.6), and Rated Hold-In Test (6.7). Non-compliance to one or more of these tests could lead to circuit breaker replacement.

Clause 7 deals with the operation of accessory devices. Failure of an accessory would lead to replacement of that accessory, or circuit breaker replacement if accessories are not removable.

In summary, following an automatic overcurrent interruption at or near its interrupting rating, the condition of any protective device should be checked prior to circuit re-energization. For molded case circuit breakers, the condition of the circuit breaker is assessed without opening or disassembling the breaker. Circuit breakers that have experienced multiple high short-circuit-current faults, as evidenced by conditions at the source of the faults, should receive a thorough inspection per the guidelines of NEMA AB 4. This document should also be used for recommended, periodic, preventive maintenance.



1. GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

NEMA Standards Publication AB 4 sets forth, for use by qualified personnel¹, a number of basic procedures that may be used for the inspection and preventive maintenance of molded case circuit breakers used in industrial and commercial applications rated up to and including 1000 V 50/60 Hz AC or AC/DC. Note—consult the manufacturer for DC-only or 400 Hz circuit breakers.

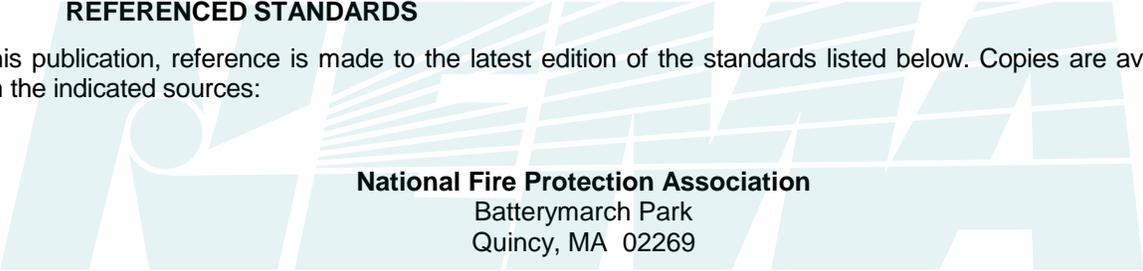
The methods outlined may be used to verify specific characteristics of a molded case circuit breaker that was originally built and tested in compliance with the requirements of NEMA Standards Publication AB 1 (UL 489). These methods are intended for field application and are, therefore, non-destructive in nature. Accordingly, these methods cannot be used to verify all performance capabilities of a molded case circuit breaker since verification of some capabilities requires tests of a destructive nature.

Many tests, including those of a destructive nature, as defined in AB 1 (UL 489), are performed on representative samples of circuit breakers by the manufacturer, as part of a routine program of factory inspection.

The AB 4 Standards Publication is not intended, nor is it adequate, to verify proper electrical performance of a molded case circuit breaker that has been disassembled, modified, rebuilt, refurbished, or handled in any manner not intended or authorized by the original circuit breaker manufacturer. Such breakers should be removed from service.

1.2 REFERENCED STANDARDS

In this publication, reference is made to the latest edition of the standards listed below. Copies are available from the indicated sources:



National Fire Protection Association
Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269

NFPA 70 *National Electrical Code*[®]
NFPA 70B *Recommended Practice for Electrical Equipment Maintenance*
NFPA 70E *Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplace*

¹ For purposes of these guidelines, a qualified person is one who has skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installation and has received training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved. In addition, the person is trained:

- and authorized to test, energize, clear, ground, tag, and lockout circuits and equipment in accordance with established safety practices.
- in the proper care and use of protective equipment such as rubber gloves, hard hat, safety glasses or face shields, and flash resistant clothing, in accordance with established safety practices.
- in first aid.

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AB 1 *Molded Case Circuit Breakers, Molded Case Switches and Circuit Breaker Enclosures*¹
AB 3 *Molded Case Circuit Breakers and Their Application*
250 *Enclosures for Electrical Equipment (1000 Volts Maximum)*
 Guidelines for Handling Water Damaged Electrical Equipment

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

UL 489 *Molded-Case Circuit Breakers, Molded-Case Switches and Circuit-Breaker Enclosures*
UL 1053 *Ground Fault Sensing and Relaying Equipment*



¹ NEMA AB 1 and UL 489 are the same.

2. SAFETY PROCEDURES

The inspection and preventive maintenance of circuit breakers in service require the user to take all necessary precautions to avoid being injured.

2.1 WARNING

2.1.1 Breaker Testing

WARNING—Hazardous voltages in electrical equipment can cause death or severe personal injury. Turn off and lock out the power supplying this equipment before performing any of the following operations.

Unless otherwise specified in this publication, inspection, preventive maintenance, and testing must always be performed on equipment that is de-energized (*note that certain tests require control power to conduct the test*). Verify that there is no voltage present on incoming line terminals (and on control power terminals, if present) and between these terminals and ground to positively ascertain that the equipment is totally de-energized. The disconnecting or isolating means on the line side of the devices being checked and/or tested must be locked in the OFF position to ensure that the equipment will remain de-energized during these procedures.

Safety related work practices described in NFPA 70E, Part II, must be followed at all times.

2.1.2 Test Equipment

WARNING—High voltages involved with some test equipment can cause death or serious injury. Do not touch or permit anyone else to touch the breaker or the test leads when voltage is applied. Strict adherence to the safety procedures recommended by the manufacturers of the test equipment is required.

2.2 SAFETY PROCEDURE

In all the following clauses, where removal of the enclosure cover is necessary, the following safety steps must be taken in the sequence shown.

2.2.1 Operate the breaker to the OFF position. Turn OFF all power supplying the breaker to electrically isolate it from all other circuits.

2.2.2 Open the enclosure and verify that there is no voltage on the incoming conductors (including control power conductors, if present) and between these conductors and ground to positively ascertain that the equipment is de-energized.

2.2.3 If disconnection of power and accessory leads, cables, or bus bars is required, be sure to properly identify all connections to ensure safe and accurate reconnection.

2.2.4 Before any functional tests are performed, be sure to connect the test breaker with properly rated cable, torqued to the recommended values marked on the circuit breaker.

2.3 REINSTALLATION SAFETY PROCEDURE

2.3.1 Do not reenergize equipment until all connections (power and control) are thoroughly checked for accuracy and tightness (torqued to proper value), internal areas of enclosure are cleaned of any conductive loose parts or debris, all breakers are turned off, and all enclosure covers are reinstalled.

2.3.2 If circuit breaker replacement is necessary, be sure the new circuit breaker is properly rated for the application.

3. GUIDELINES

3.1 THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

The *National Electrical Code* states that the purpose of overcurrent protection, as provided by a properly applied circuit breaker¹, is "to open the circuit if the current reaches a value that will cause an excessive or dangerous temperature in conductors or conductor insulation."

The *National Electrical Code* and NEMA define a circuit breaker as: "A device designed to open and close a circuit by non-automatic means and to open the circuit automatically on a predetermined overcurrent without damage to itself when properly applied within its rating."

3.2 A MOLDED CASE CIRCUIT BREAKER

A molded case circuit breaker is one that is assembled as an integral unit in a supportive and enclosing housing of insulating material. Molded case circuit breakers have factory-calibrated and sealed elements. Any unauthorized modification may render the breaker incapable of performing its intended functions and may also jeopardize the manufacturer's warranty.

An insulated case circuit breaker is one that is assembled as an integral unit in a supporting and enclosing housing of insulating material and with a stored energy mechanism. Insulated case circuit breakers are certified to the standard for molded case circuit breakers.

3.3 TO AVOID DAMAGED OR OTHERWISE INOPERABLE CIRCUIT BREAKERS BEING INADVERTENTLY RETURNED TO SERVICE

To avoid damaged or otherwise inoperable circuit breakers being inadvertently returned to service, it is suggested that such breakers be destroyed or returned to the manufacturer for disposal.

3.4 GUIDANCE REGARDING INSPECTION AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Industrial users have requested guidance regarding inspection and preventive maintenance procedures which could be carried out on a regularly scheduled basis. Clauses 4 through 7 of this publication set forth guidelines for inspection, preventive maintenance, and testing. These clauses may be applied independently or in combination to establish such a program. For additional assistance, consult the manufacturer's published instructions.

3.5 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING MOLDED CASE CIRCUIT BREAKER PERFORMANCE AND APPLICATION

For information regarding molded case circuit breaker performance and application, refer to NEMA Standards Publications AB 1 (UL 489) and AB 3, respectively.

3.6 WATER DAMAGED MOLDED CASE CIRCUIT BREAKERS

Circuit breakers that are known to have been subjected to water damage, e.g., by flooding or sprinkler discharge, should be replaced. For additional information, refer to the NEMA document *Evaluating Water-Damaged Electrical Equipment*.

¹Throughout this publication, the terms "circuit breaker" and "breaker" refer to a "molded case circuit breaker" unless otherwise stated.

4. INSPECTION PROCEDURES

4.1 GENERAL

The following inspection practices are recommended.

4.2 EXPOSED FACE TEMPERATURE CHECK

4.2.1 Purpose

To determine if there is excessive temperature on the insulated face (cover) of the circuit breaker.

CAUTION—Severe burns can result from high temperatures. Do not hold hand or fingers in contact with surfaces if excessive heat is felt.

4.2.2 Procedure

With the breaker enclosed as in normal use, carrying normal load current, and with the door (if any) giving access to the breaker operating handle open, check the exposed accessible insulated face of the breaker and the adjacent, surrounding, dead front surfaces of the enclosure for their approximate operating temperature. This may be done by a thermographic survey or a temperature measuring instrument to identify excessive temperature conditions at the surface.

Please note that after initial energization, the breaker may not reach full temperature rise until it has carried its load for at least three hours.

4.2.3 Results

Temperature rises above ambient exceeding 35°C (95°F) on metal and 60°C (140°F) on plastic surfaces (See UL 489 7.1.4.1.1) are considered excessive and may be an indication of overheating. Further investigation may be necessary. Proceed to 4.3.

4.3 INSPECTION OF ENCLOSURE INTERIOR

4.3.1 Purpose

To evaluate the operating environment, the apparent condition of the breaker's molded case, that proper conductors have been used, and if there is any visual indication that overheating has occurred.

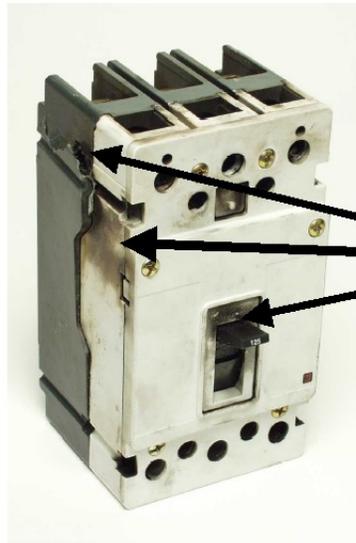
4.3.2 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

4.3.2.1 After being properly isolated, verify that the breaker has been properly applied within its marked ratings. If the breaker has not been applied within its ratings, it should be replaced with a breaker suitable for the application.

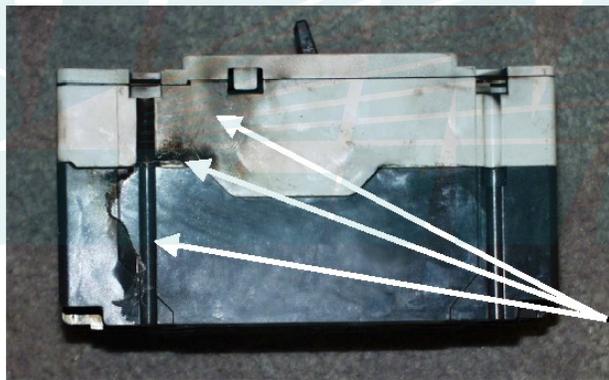
4.3.2.2 Examine the circuit breaker surfaces for the presence of dust, dirt, soot, grease, or moisture. If such contamination is found, the surfaces should be cleaned. Refer to 5.2.2.1 for cleaning and precautionary instructions.

4.3.2.3 Examine the breaker's molded case for cracks. The integrity of the molded case is important in withstanding the stresses imposed during short circuit interruptions. Breakers should be replaced if cracks are found (See example Figure 1 and Figure 2).



If a circuit breaker with a cracked case or burn marks is found, immediately take the circuit breaker out of service and replace it.

Figure 1
Front View of Circuit Breaker with Cracked Molded Case

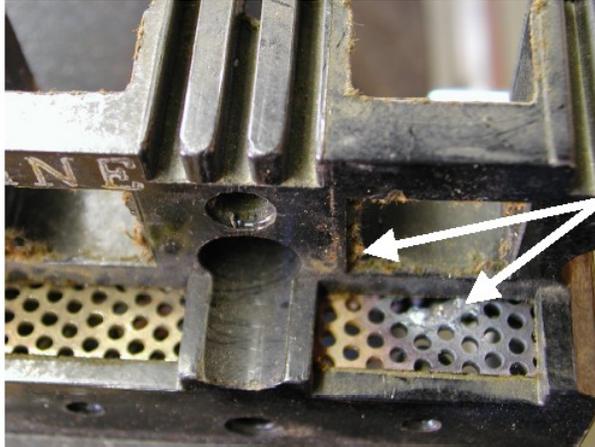


If a circuit breaker with a cracked case or burn marks is found, immediately take the circuit breaker out of service and replace it.

Figure 2
Side View of Circuit Breaker with Cracked Molded Case

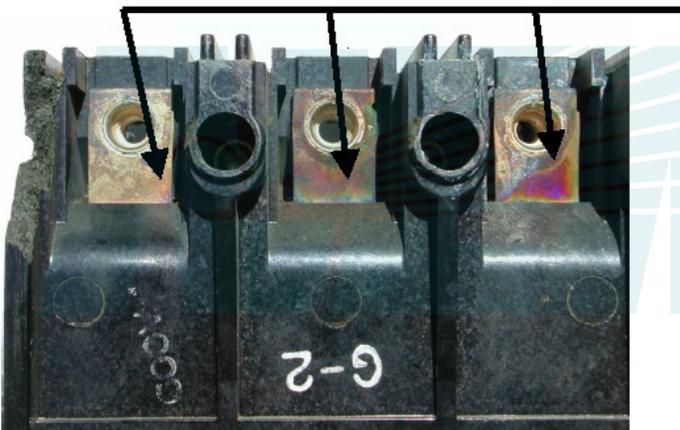
4.3.2.4 Verify that the conductors are of the correct size and type for the application. Visually check all electrical connections to the circuit breaker to be certain that such connections are clean and secure. Loose or contaminated connections increase electrical resistance, which can damage insulation and conductors and interfere with proper circuit breaker operation. Increased electrical resistance causes overheating of a connection. Such overheating is indicated by discoloration of the breaker's molded case, discoloration or flaking of external metal parts, or melting or blistering of adjacent wire insulation. Pitting or melting of connection surfaces is a sign of arcing due to a loose or otherwise poor connection (See examples Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5).

- a. If there is no evidence of looseness, e.g., overheating, do not disturb or tighten the connections.
- b. If there is evidence of overheating (as noted in 4.2.2 of this clause) or arcing, an investigation of the cause should be made and corrective steps taken (See Clause 5).



If evidence of overheating, burning, or melting of the arc chute vent or area around the vents is discovered, immediately take the circuit breaker out of service and replace it.

Figure 3
Arc Gas Exhaust Area



If evidence of overheating is discovered, immediately take the breaker out of service and take the corrective steps of Clause 5.

Figure 4
Line and/or Load Terminals

If a blistered case is found, immediately take the circuit breaker out of service and replace it.

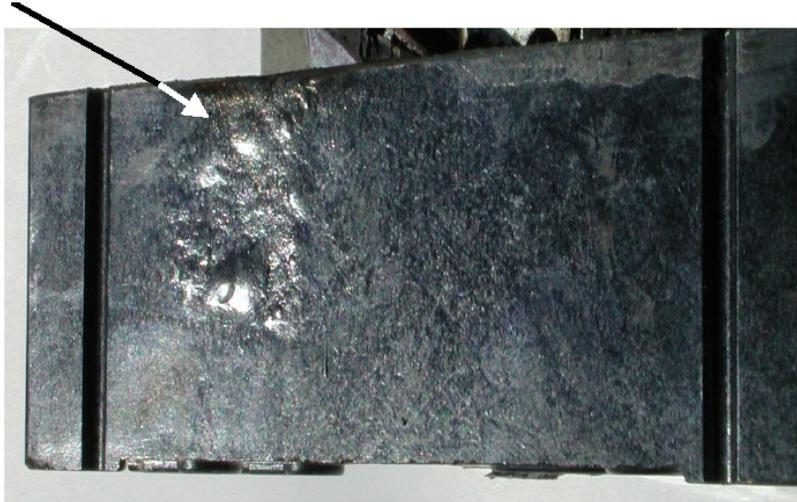


Figure 5
Molded Housing (Base and/or Cover)

4.3.2.5 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.



5. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

5.1 GENERAL

Under normal conditions, properly applied molded case circuit breakers require maintenance only for verification of environmental conditions and that the correct enclosure type for those conditions is being used. However, when inspections determine an abnormal condition and indicate the possibility of damage, it may be necessary to perform certain maintenance steps. This clause is intended to assist the user in performing these steps.

These steps cover the only maintenance that should be performed on molded case circuit breakers unless specifically authorized by the circuit breaker manufacturer.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

5.2.1 Purpose

To examine the operating environment and the breaker's physical condition. Preventive maintenance and corrective actions are included as appropriate.

5.2.2 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

The circuit breaker enclosure must be opened to perform the following steps and, in some cases, it will be necessary to remove the circuit breaker from the enclosure.

5.2.2.1 After being properly isolated, examine the circuit breaker surfaces for dust, dirt, soot, grease, or moisture. If grease or evidence of moisture is found, or more than a thin film of dust, dirt or soot is seen, the breaker should be cleaned as suggested below.

The insulating surfaces of the breaker should be cleaned using a lint free dry cloth, brush, or vacuum cleaner. Avoid blowing material into the circuit breaker or into surrounding equipment.

CAUTION—Commercial cleaners and lubricants may attack and damage the plastic insulating materials of the breaker. Therefore, such cleaners should not be used. Only the methods described in 5.2.2.1 should be used.

Steps should be taken to eliminate the source of the contamination or to provide an appropriate enclosure that will protect against the future entry of contaminants. With respect to the prevention of moisture, the circuit breaker should be housed in an enclosure appropriate for the environment.

5.2.2.2 Examine the breaker and terminations for signs of overheating as described in 4.3.2.4. If such evidence is found, the following maintenance steps should be performed.

5.2.2.2.1 A plug-on type circuit breaker should be carefully removed and examined. If the plug-on jaws of the circuit breaker are pitted, discolored, or melted on the surfaces that mate with the connecting bus bars, the circuit breakers should be replaced. No attempt should be made to dress the mating surfaces or bend the circuit breaker plug-on jaws.

If the connecting bus bars show signs of pitting or melting, they should also be replaced. If non-replaceable, the entire assembly should be replaced.

NOTE—Plug-on jaws should be examined for the presence of a connector compound. If present, this compound should not be removed unless it is contaminated. Before plugging the circuit breaker back onto the panelboard bus bars, apply a small amount of new compound to the jaws. Use only the compound recommended by the circuit breaker manufacturer.

5.2.2.2.2 Copper circuit breaker terminals and connecting straps (wire connectors and bus bars) can normally be cleaned. They should be carefully disassembled, cleaned, and dressed using fine aluminum oxide paper. All metal and abrasive particles should be removed before reassembling.

CAUTION—When performing this procedure, extreme care should be exercised to prevent any damage to plated connections or mechanical disturbance to the circuit breaker and to prevent any particles from entering the breaker.

If the damage is extensive, or cannot be corrected by dressing the surfaces, the damaged parts should be replaced if they are intended by the manufacturer to be replaceable. If the damaged parts are not intended to be replaceable, the complete breaker and/or bus connections should be replaced.

5.2.2.2.3 Aluminum circuit breaker terminals and connecting straps (wire connectors and bus bars) cannot be cleaned or repaired, and therefore must be replaced.

5.2.2.2.4 If wire conductors are damaged, the damaged lengths of the conductors should be cut off. Before reinstalling the conductors, see 5.4.

5.3 INTERCHANGEABLE TRIP UNITS¹

5.3.1 If the circuit breaker has an interchangeable trip unit, remove the circuit breaker cover and visually check the connections of the trip unit to the circuit breaker frame for evidence of overheating (See 4.3.2.4).

5.3.2 If there is no evidence of overheating or looseness, do not disturb or tighten the connections.

5.3.3 If there is evidence of looseness, overheating, or arcing at any of the trip unit connections, remove the trip unit and visually inspect the connecting surfaces.

5.3.1.1 If the connecting surfaces show evidence of overheating, the circuit breaker frame and trip unit should be replaced.

5.3.1.2 If the threaded inserts in the circuit breaker base are stripped or cross-threaded, the circuit breaker frame should be replaced.

5.3.1.3 If there is no evidence of pitting or melting on the connecting surfaces and the threaded inserts appear to be in good condition, reinstall the trip unit in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

5.4 WIRE CONNECTORS

5.4.1 If conductors are removed from the wiring connectors, the following steps should be performed:

5.4.1.1 Examine wire connectors. If the wire connectors appear to be in good condition, they may be re-used. If the connectors, screws, or their plating appear worn or damaged, or there is evidence of cross threading or binding, the connector assembly should be replaced.

5.4.1.2 If the wire conductors are damaged, the damaged length of the conductors should be cut off.

5.4.1.3 Appropriate joint compound must be used with aluminum conductors if specified by the circuit breaker manufacturer.

5.4.1.4 All wire connectors should be torqued in accordance with the nameplate marking or the circuit breaker manufacturer's instructions.

5.5 REINSTALLATION PROCEDURE

If the breaker needs to be reinstalled or replaced, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

¹The nameplate or label of the circuit breaker should identify the device as a circuit breaker "frame" if the circuit breaker has an interchangeable trip unit.

6. TEST PROCEDURES

6.1 GENERAL

Some industrial users have indicated that they are required to conduct operational tests of their circuit breakers. The AB 4 Standards Publication is not intended, nor is it adequate, to verify proper electrical performance of a molded case circuit breaker that has been disassembled, modified, rebuilt, refurbished, or handled in any manner not intended or authorized by the original circuit breaker manufacturer. The following non-destructive tests may be used to verify specific operational characteristics of molded case breakers: mechanical operation test, insulation resistance test, individual pole resistance test (millivolt drop test), inverse time overcurrent trip test, instantaneous overcurrent trip test, and rated hold-in test.

6.2 MECHANICAL OPERATION TESTS

6.2.1 Purpose

To verify that the circuit breaker mechanism is operating freely.

6.2.2 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedure).

6.2.2.1 After the circuit breaker is properly isolated, operate it ON and OFF 2 or 3 times. The breaker handle should operate smoothly without binding.

6.2.2.2 Using an ohmmeter or other indicating device, verify that all circuit breaker contacts are open when the handle is in the OFF position and closed when the handle is in the ON position.

6.2.2.3 For breakers that are provided with mechanical trip provisions (generally indicated by a test button) operate the tripping means according to the manufacturer's instructions. With the breaker in the tripped position, verify that the contacts are open using an ohmmeter (or other indicating device). Reset the breaker according to the manufacturer's instructions and operate the breaker to the ON and OFF positions. Use an ohmmeter (or other indicating device) to verify that all the contacts are closing and opening respectively.

6.2.3 Results

The breaker should be replaced if:

- a. The contacts are not open with the breaker in the tripped or OFF position
- b. The contacts are not closed with the breaker in the ON position
- c. The breaker does not reset
- d. The mechanical trip provisions (if provided) do not trip the breaker

6.2.4 Reinstallation procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

6.3 INSULATION RESISTANCE TEST

NOTE—The circuit breaker should be removed from the equipment for this test. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

See Figure 6 for typical test set-up.

6.3.1 Purpose

To determine the adequacy of the insulation between line and load terminals, between poles, and between each pole and ground.

6.3.2 Equipment

This test requires an insulation resistance tester capable of applying a direct-current voltage of at least 500 volts. It should be also noted that more accurate information can be obtained when 1000 volt testers are used since they are more likely to detect deteriorated insulation systems (See Figure 6).



Figure 6
Insulation Resistance Test Set-up

6.3.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in clause 2.

CAUTION—If applied incorrectly, the voltages utilized in the insulation resistance test may damage to electronic or other accessory components. To avoid such damage, the following procedure should be adhered to closely. Do not apply test voltages to accessory terminals.

6.3.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the breaker from the enclosure. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated/disconnected from line and load connections as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.3.4 Test

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedure).

6.3.4.1 All exposed metal parts except line, load, and accessory terminals should be electrically connected to a metal baseplate.

6.3.4.2 Using an insulation resistance tester, apply a direct-current voltage of at least 500 volts to determine the resistance. Voltage is to be applied as follows:

WARNING—High Voltage—Do not touch breaker or leads. See 2.1.2 for proper safety procedure.

6.3.4.2.1 Between line and load terminals of each individual pole with the circuit breaker in the OFF position and tripped position if possible.

6.3.4.2.2 Between terminals of adjacent poles with the circuit breaker in the ON position.

6.3.4.2.3 From line terminals to the metal baseplate with the circuit breaker in the ON position.

6.3.5 Results

All resistance readings should be one megohm or greater for each measurement. If any reading is less than one megohm, the circuit breaker should be replaced or the manufacturer should be consulted before restoring the circuit breaker to service. Any reading less than one megohm may indicate contaminated, flawed, or cracked insulating material.

6.3.6 Reinstall Breaker

If applicable, reinstall the circuit breaker following manufacturer's instructions. Also refer to 5.4 for information on reinstalling wire connectors and/or conductors

6.3.7 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

6.4 INDIVIDUAL POLE RESISTANCE TEST (MILLIVOLT DROP)

See Figure 7 and Figure 8 for typical test set up.

NOTE—The circuit breaker should be removed from the equipment for this test. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.



Figure 7
Individual Pole Resistance Test Set-Up

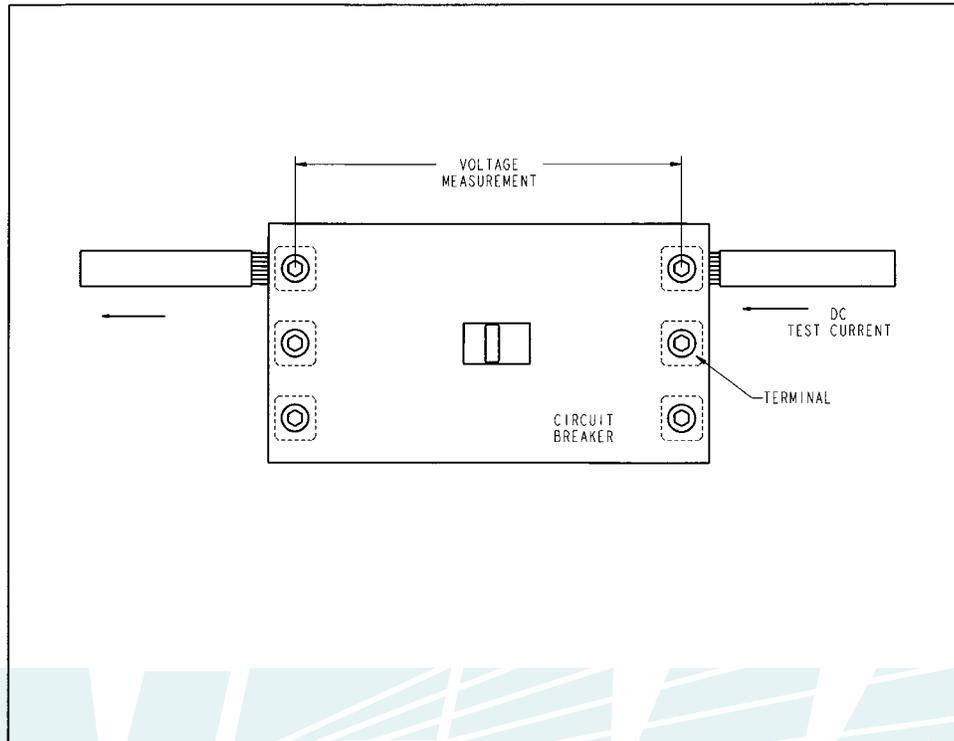


Figure 8
Individual Pole Resistance Test Set-up

6.4.1 Purpose

To assess the electrical integrity of internal connections and contacts in a circuit breaker. This can be done by conducting a millivolt drop test across the line and load terminals of each pole with the circuit breaker contacts closed.

The millivolt drop (resistance) of a circuit breaker pole can vary significantly due to inherent variability in the extremely low resistance of the electrical contacts and connectors. Such variations do not necessarily predict unacceptable performance and should not be used as the sole criteria for determination of acceptability (See 6.4.5).

6.4.2 Equipment

6.4.2.1 This test should be conducted using a 24 volt, or less, direct current power supply capable of supplying the rated current of the circuit breaker. For circuit breakers rated higher than 500 amperes, the power supply should be capable of delivering no less than 500 amperes.

6.4.2.2 If the above equipment is not available for field tests, a Digital Low Resistance Ohmmeter (DLRO), or 4-point tester, capable of 10 to 100 amperes (DC), may be used.

NOTE—Use of a multimeter or low current ohmmeter in place of the power supply will not provide an accurate or reliable measurement of millivolt drop and should not be used.

6.4.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

6.4.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the breaker from the enclosure. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated/disconnected as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.4.4 Test

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedures).

6.4.4.1 The test is performed as follows:

6.4.4.1.1 Apply test current across a pole equal to the breaker rating (or 500 Amperes minimum for breakers rated in excess of 500 Amperes). Record the millivolt drop and the test current. Do not maintain current for more than 1 minute. If this equipment is not available, use the following test.

6.4.4.1.2 Apply test current across a pole of 10 Amperes, or the Ampere rating of the breaker, for breakers rated less than 100 Amperes. For breakers rated more than 100 Amperes, apply a test current across a pole of 100 Amperes. Record the millivolt drop and the test current, or resistance. Do not maintain current for more than 1 minute.

6.4.4.1.3 De-energize the test circuit. Manually operate the breaker to the OFF and then ON positions.

6.4.4.1.4 Repeat steps 6.4.4.1.1 and 6.4.4.1.2 for a total of three readings on the pole being tested.

6.4.4.1.5 Repeat steps 6.4.4.1.1 through 6.4.4.1.3 for each of the remaining poles of the circuit breaker.

6.4.5 Results

The results of test will vary according to the breaker frame type, ampere rating, and manufacturer. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the maximum allowable voltage drop. If the average test values of any pole of the breaker exceed the maximum allowable drop, the circuit breaker may have reached the end of life and additional tests may have to be conducted.

NOTE—Inconsistent readings could be the result of oxide films or foreign material on the contact surfaces, depending on the service history of the breaker. If high millivolt or high resistance readings are detected, it may be advisable to do tests in section 6.6, which may help clean contact surfaces, then repeat tests in this section. If results are still out of acceptable range, the breaker should not be returned to service.

6.4.6 Reinstall Breaker

If applicable, reinstall the circuit breaker following manufacturer's instructions. Also refer to 5.4 for information on reinstalling wire connectors and/or conductors.

6.4.7 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

6.5 INVERSE-TIME OVER CURRENT TRIP TEST

NOTE—The circuit breaker should be removed from the equipment for this test. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.5.1 Purpose

To verify the operation of the inverse-time overcurrent tripping function of a circuit breaker. This test is not applicable to instantaneous only breakers or molded case switches.

6.5.2 Equipment

Variable low voltage power supply, including an RMS reading ammeter capable of delivering the required test current for the maximum test duration as shown in Table 3.

Circuit breakers with electronic trip units are often equipped with integral test provisions for verifying the functional operation of the trip unit. Where integral test provisions are not included, separate test devices are frequently available from the circuit breaker manufacturer. When using either of these alternate test means, the instructions of the manufacturer must be followed.

6.5.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

6.5.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the breaker from the enclosure. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated/disconnected from line and load connections as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.5.4 Test

NOTE 1—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedure).

NOTE 2—These tests should be conducted on individual circuit breaker poles using a test current of 300% of the circuit breaker's rated current. This test current has been chosen because it is relatively easy to attain and the wattage per pole is low enough that the transfer of heat into the adjacent poles is minor and does not appreciably affect the test results.

NOTE 3—Circuit breakers equipped with electronic trip units typically are provided with more than one long-time trip curve. The tests in this clause should be performed with the circuit breaker set at the longest time setting or at the end use setting, as preferred.

NOTE 4—Circuit breakers equipped with electronic trip units incorporating ground fault protection should be tested with two poles or more in series to avoid an early trip via the ground fault trip circuit.

NOTE 5—Plug-on or draw-out circuit breakers will require specialized connections or test fixtures.

Conduct the test on each pole of the circuit breaker by connecting the line and load terminals of that pole to the test equipment by copper conductors not less than 4 ft (1.2 m) in length, sized in accordance with Table 1.

A circuit breaker rated 1600 amperes or more may be tested with copper bus bars per Table 2 instead of cable. A circuit breaker rated more than 4000 amperes should be tested with copper bus bars unless it is marked for cable connections only.

Tests should be conducted with the circuit breaker at a room ambient of approximately 25°C (77°F).

6.5.4.1 Connect one pole (two or more poles for electronic trip circuit breakers equipped with ground fault protection) as indicated above.

6.5.4.2 With the test circuit breaker closed, energize the test circuit and quickly adjust the transformer to the required 300% test current.

6.5.4.3 With the test current at the correct value, start timing.

6.5.4.4 Record trip time.

6.5.4.5 Repeat steps 6.5.4.1 through 6.5.4.4 on each of the other individual poles. (Where ground fault protection [GFP] is supplied, repeat steps 6.5.4.1 through 6.5.4.4 using two additional combinations of poles.) Tests on adjacent poles should be made at no less than five minute intervals. For circuit breakers with thermal trip elements, wait at least 20 minutes before repeating tests on the same pole. For circuit breakers with electronic trip elements, consult the manufacturer's published instructions for required intervals between tests.

If the intervals are shortened, subsequent tests may result in premature tripping. If more accurate results are required, the between-test intervals should be extended to permit the temperature of the circuit breaker to return to that of the surrounding ambient air.

For information regarding testing of an electronic trip circuit breaker's ground fault trip element, consult the manufacturer's published instructions.

6.5.5 Results

The circuit breaker should trip within the maximum times shown in Table 3. Circuit breakers that do not trip within these maximum time limits should be withheld from further service.

NOTE—Variations in test equipment, test conditions or procedures can affect results. For any additional test information, consult the circuit breaker manufacturer.

NOTE—If there is concern that the trip time is too low, then the hold-in test should be conducted (See 6.7).

6.5.6 Reinstall Breaker

If applicable, reinstall the circuit breaker following manufacturer's instructions. Also refer to 5.4 for information on reinstalling wire connectors and/or conductors.

6.5.7 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.



Table 1
COPPER TEST CONDUCTOR SELECTION

BREAKER RATING (AMPERES*)	NUMBER OF PARALLELED CONDUCTORS	SIZE	
		75°C RATING	60°C RATING**
15 or less	—	14 AWG	14 AWG
20	—	12 AWG	12
25	—	10 AWG	10
30	—	10 AWG	10
40	—	8 AWG	8
50	—	8 AWG	6
60	—	6 AWG	4
70	—	4 AWG	4
80	—	4 AWG	3
90	—	3 AWG	2
100	—	3 AWG	1
110	—	2 AWG	1
125	—	1 AWG	1/0
150	—	1/0 AWG	—
175	—	2/0 AWG	—
200	—	3/0 AWG	—
225	—	4/0 AWG	—
250	—	250 kcmil	—
275	—	300 kcmil	—
300	—	350 kcmil	—
325	—	400 kcmil	—
350	—	500 kcmil	—
400	2	3/0 AWG	—
450	2	4/0 AWG	—
500	2	250 kcmil	—
550	2	300 kcmil	—
600	2	350 kcmil	—
700	2	500 kcmil	—
800	3	300 kcmil	—
1000	3	400 kcmil	—
1200	4	350 kcmil, or	—
	3	600 kcmil	—
1400	4	500 kcmil	—
1600	5	400 kcmil, or	—
	4	600 kcmil	—
2000	6	400 kcmil, or	—
	5	600 kcmil	—
2500	8	400 kcmil, or	—
	7	500 kcmil, or	—
	6	600 kcmil	—
3000	9	400 kcmil, or	—
	8	500 kcmil, or	—
	7	600 kcmil	—
4000	12	400 kcmil, or	—
	11	500 kcmil, or	—
	10	600 kcmil	—

* For circuit breaker ratings other than shown, the next higher rating is to be used, e.g., if rated 35A, use 40 ampere value.

** Use this column for circuit breakers marked "For use only with 60°C wire insulation" or for unmarked breakers rated through 125 amperes.

Table 2
SIZE OF COPPER BUSBAR CONNECTIONS

Circuit Breaker Frame Size In Amperes	Number of Busbars*	Size in Inches	Size in Millimeters
1600	2	1/4 x 3	6.4 x 76.2
2000	2	1/4 x 4	6.4 x 102
2500	2 or 4	1/4 x 5 1/4 x 2-1/2	6.4 x 127 6.4 x 63.5
3000	4	1/4 x 4	6.4 x 102
4000	4	1/4 x 5	6.4 x 127
5000	6	1/4 x 5	6.4 x 127
6000	6	1/4 x 6	6.4 x 152

* Spacing between multiple busbars should be 6.4 mm (1/4 in.), with no intentional greater spacing, except as necessary at the individual terminals of the circuit breaker.

Table 3
VALUES FOR INVERSE TIME TRIP TEST
(At 300% of Rated Continuous Current of Circuit Breaker)

Rated Current Amperes	Maximum Trip Time in Seconds*	
	≤250V	251–600V
0–30	50	70
31–50	80	100
51–100	140	160
101–150	200	250
151–225	230	275
226–400	300	350
401–600	—	450
601–800	—	500
801–1000	—	600
1001–1200	—	700
1201–1600	—	775
1601–2000	—	800
2001–2500	—	850
2501–5000	—	900
6000	—	1000

* For integrally-fused circuit breakers, trip times may be substantially longer if tested with the fuses replaced by solid links (Shorting bars).

6.6 INSTANTANEOUS OVER CURRENT TRIP TEST

NOTE—The circuit breaker should be removed from equipment for this test. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.6.1 Purpose

To verify the operation of the instantaneous trip functions under field test conditions. Accordingly, the tolerances given in Table 4 are necessarily broader than the manufacturer's factory tolerances.

6.6.2 Equipment

The same equipment as utilized in 6.5 is required with the following exceptions:

- a. For the run-up method of testing a pointer-stop ammeter or other types of meters (digital) capable of reading and recording, the maximum current reached prior to tripping may be used.
- b. For the pulse method of testing, a calibrated image-retaining oscilloscope, or a high speed sampling rate digital ammeter (capable of accurately measuring a half-cycle pulse) is required instead of an ammeter.

6.6.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

6.6.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the breaker from the enclosure. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated/disconnected from line and load connections as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.6.4 Test

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedures).

Since the instantaneous trip characteristics of the circuit breaker can be influenced by stray magnetic fields, the test setup must be made in such a way that the fields caused by the test equipment itself, by steel enclosures, mounting plates, or by the conductors to the circuit breaker, do not affect the test results. Results can also be influenced by the wave shape of the current and, therefore, it is desirable to have sinusoidal output from the supply equipment. Manufacturers may be consulted for individual recommendations on mounting and wire routing if desired.

The two methods which may be used for testing the instantaneous trip function are the "run-up" and the "pulse" methods.

NOTE—Circuit breakers with electronic trip units are often equipped with integral test provisions to verify the functional operation of the trip unit. Where integral test provisions are not included, separate test devices are frequently available from the circuit breaker manufacturer. When using either of these alternate test means, follow the instructions of the manufacturer.

6.6.4.1 Run-Up Method

6.6.4.1.1 Connect one pole of the test breaker to the test equipment as indicated in 6.5, adjust the trip setting to the desired position, and operate the breaker to the ON position.

6.6.4.1.2 Set the current control to a point where approximately 60% of the current setting will flow when the circuit is energized.

6.6.4.1.3 Turn the power ON and increase the current until the circuit breaker trips. The recommended time for increasing the current is between two and five seconds. If the circuit breaker does not open within five seconds, the supply circuit should be turned OFF to prevent damage to the test equipment and overheating of the circuit breaker thermal elements.

This method requires operator skill in recognizing the relationships between actual current and the meter indication. If the current is increased too slowly, tripping may be caused by the time delay element, especially if more than one test is run. If the current is increased too rapidly, an erroneous current reading

may be obtained because the meter lags behind the actual current value due to meter damping. This problem can be overcome and the accuracy of this method may be improved by the use of a calibrated oscilloscope to read the current level at the time the breaker trips.

6.6.4.2 Pulse Method

This method is more accurate than the run-up method, if done properly. However, it is subject to an error introduced by a distortion of the pulse current, commonly called offset or asymmetrical waveform, as depicted in Figure 9. This current offset can be minimized by controlling the closing of the circuit such that the circuit is closed at approximately the 90° point on the supply circuit voltage waveform.

The pulse method involves the following steps:

6.6.4.2.1 Connect one pole of the test breaker to the test equipment as indicated in 6.5, adjust the trip setting to the desired position, and operate the breaker to the ON position.

6.6.4.2.2 Apply a pulse of current, approximately 5 to 10 cycles in duration, and at a level approximately 5% below the lower tolerance limit specified in Table 4 for the breaker setting. The breaker should not trip.

6.6.4.2.3 Apply a pulse of current, approximately 5 to 10 cycles in duration and at a level equivalent to the high tolerance limit specified in Table 4. The breaker should trip.

Table 4
INSTANTANEOUS TRIP TOLERANCES FOR FIELD TESTING OF CIRCUIT BREAKERS

Breaker Type	Tolerances of Settings	Tolerances of Manufacturers' Published Trip Range	
		High Side	Low Side
Electronic Trip Units ⁽¹⁾	+30% -30%	—	—
Adjustable ⁽¹⁾	+40% -30%	—	—
Non-adjustable ⁽²⁾	—	+25%	-25%

⁽¹⁾ Tolerances are based on variations from the nominal settings.

⁽²⁾ Tolerances are based on variations from the manufacturer's published trip band (i.e., -25% below the low side of the band; +25% above the high side of the band).

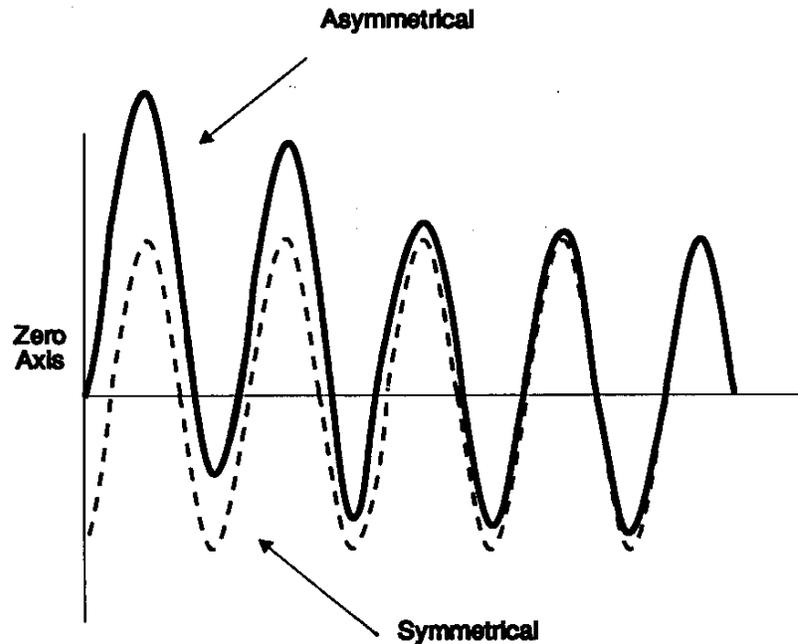


Figure 9
Current Wave Shapes

6.6.5 Results

Test results should be in accordance with the values shown in Table 4.

If the results differ significantly from those values, reexamine the test circuit and circuit breaker mounting arrangements (See 6.6.4). If there are no apparent problems with the test circuit or mounting arrangements, the circuit breaker should be replaced. If in doubt, consult the circuit breaker manufacturer.

6.6.6 Reinstall Breaker

If applicable, reinstall the circuit breaker following manufacturer's instructions. Also refer to 5.4 for information on reinstalling wire connectors and/or conductors.

6.6.7 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

6.7 RATED HOLD-IN TEST

NOTE—The circuit breaker should be removed from the equipment for this test. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.7.1 Purpose

To verify the capability of a molded case circuit breaker to carry its rated current. It should be performed if the circuit breaker has been tripping under normal load conditions (See 4.3.2.1).

6.7.2 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

6.7.2.1 Remove the breaker from the enclosure. In cases where the circuit breaker can be safely isolated or disconnected as installed, the test may be performed with the circuit breaker in its equipment.

6.7.3 Equipment

A low voltage power supply such as that described in 6.5.2 is required to conduct this test.

6.7.4 Test

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedures).

6.7.4.1 The circuit breaker should be tested with the operating mechanism set to the ON position, in open air, with all poles connected in series by copper conductors not less than 4 ft (1.2 m) in length, selected in accordance with Table 1.

The test should be performed at room ambient temperature approximately 25°C (77°F). The power supply should be adjusted to deliver rated current until the circuit breaker temperature stabilizes. Temperature stabilization usually occurs within one hour for breakers rated 100 amperes or less, but will take several hours for breakers of higher rating. Stabilization may be verified by taking three successive temperature measurements at intervals of 10 to 20 minutes between measurements at the same location on one or more of the circuit breaker connectors utilizing a temperature probe or thermocouple instrument.

6.7.5 Results

The circuit breaker should not trip during the test. If it does trip, reset the breaker and turn it ON again while continuing to monitor connector temperatures for an indication of temperature stabilization.

If the breaker continues to trip or if any of its terminals reach temperatures higher than 80°C above ambient, it should not be returned to service.

6.7.6 Reinstall Breaker

If applicable, reinstall the circuit breaker following manufacturer's instructions. Also refer to 5.4 for information on reinstalling wire connectors and/or conductors.

6.7.7 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

7. ACCESSORY DEVICE TEST PROCEDURES

7.1 GENERAL

If testing instructions for the specific accessory being tested are available from the manufacturer, those instructions should be followed to verify the operation of the accessory. If the manufacturer's instructions are not available, the tests described below may be used to verify the basic operation of the accessory.

7.2 SHUNT TRIP RELEASE TESTS

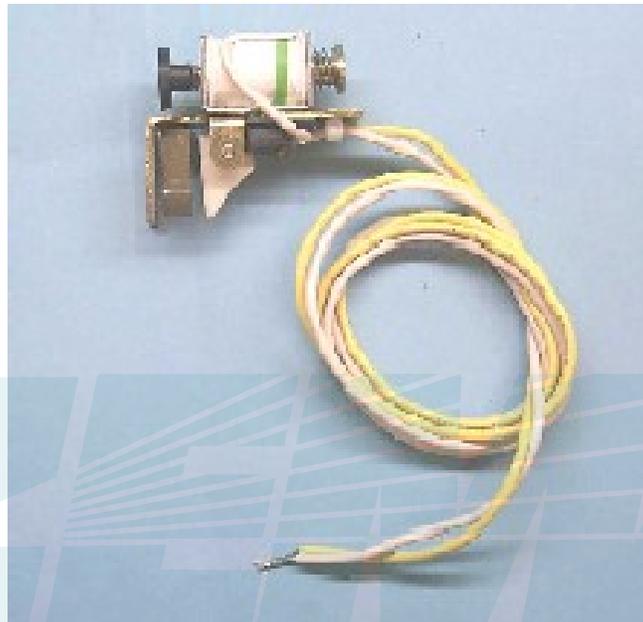


Figure 10
Sample Shunt Trip Release

7.2.1 Purpose

To verify that the shunt trip release device, Figure 10, will trip the circuit breaker when energized.

7.2.2 Equipment

This test requires a power supply capable of delivering the shunt trip release rated current and voltage.

7.2.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

CAUTION—Circuit breakers and accessory devices can be damaged if power is applied to the wrong terminals. The specific lead wires or terminals for each accessory must be properly identified before conducting any of the following tests.

7.2.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the control circuit wires from the terminals (or leads) of the shunt trip release device.

7.2.3.2 Connect a test power supply to the terminals (or leads) of the shunt trip release device.

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release in addition to the shunt trip release, energize the under-voltage trip release to allow proper operation of the shunt trip release (See 7.3 for proper procedures). Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals of the under-voltage release device and connect a test power supply to its terminals at rated voltage.

7.3.2 Equipment

This test requires a power supply capable of delivering the under-voltage trip release device's rated current and voltage.

7.3.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

CAUTION—Circuit breakers and accessory devices can be damaged if power is applied to the wrong terminals. The specific lead wires or terminals for each accessory must be properly identified before conducting any of the following tests.

7.3.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the control circuit wires from the terminals (or leads) of the under-voltage trip release device.

7.3.3.2 Connect a test power supply to the terminals (or leads) of the under-voltage trip release device.

7.3.3.3 Set the power supply to the rated voltage of the under-voltage release and energize.

WARNING—High Voltage. Do not touch breaker or test leads while voltage is applied.

7.3.3.4 Operate the breaker to the ON position. The breaker contacts should close.

7.3.3.5 Turn off the power supply to the under-voltage trip release. The circuit breaker should trip.

7.3.3.6 Re-latch and attempt to turn the circuit breaker to the ON position. The circuit breaker contacts should not close and remain closed. Momentary contact closure is acceptable.

CAUTION—The circuit breakers mechanism could be damaged by repeated operation of the circuit breaker with a de-energized under-voltage release.

7.3.3.7 When the test is completed, be sure the power supply remains turned off, disconnect it from the under-voltage trip release device terminals (or leads), and reconnect the control circuit wires to the under-voltage trip release device terminals (or leads).

NOTE—It may be possible to test the operation of the under-voltage trip release device by leaving the control circuit wiring in place and energized, and then opening a contact in the control circuit. However, this method is not recommended unless the control circuits are thoroughly understood and all proper safety precautions are taken.

7.3.4 Results

The circuit breaker should trip, and it should not be possible to close the breaker contacts, when the power supply to the under-voltage trip device is turned off, as indicated in steps 7.3.3.5 and 7.3.3.6 of the above procedure. If the breaker does not perform as indicated, check the connections and repeat the test. If the breaker still does not perform as indicated, replace the under-voltage trip device, if replaceable. If the under-voltage trip device is not replaceable, replace the complete breaker.

7.3.5 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

7.4 ELECTRICAL OPERATOR TESTS



Figure 12
Sample Electrical Operator/Circuit Breaker Assembly

7.4.1 Purpose

To verify that the electrical operator, Figure 12, will operate the circuit breaker to the ON and OFF positions.

7.4.2 Equipment

This test requires a power supply capable of delivering the electrical operator rated current and voltage.

7.4.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

CAUTION—Circuit breakers and accessory devices can be damaged if power is applied to the wrong terminals. The specific lead wires or terminals for each accessory must be properly identified before conducting any of the following tests.

7.4.3.1 After being properly isolated, remove the control circuit wires from the terminals of the electrical operator.

7.4.3.2 Set test power supply to the rated voltage of the electrical operator and connect to the terminals of the electrical operator marked “common” and “close” or “on.”

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release in addition to the electrical operator, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the electrical operator (See 7.3 for proper procedures). Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals of the under-voltage release device and connect a test power supply to the terminals at rated voltage.

7.4.3.3 With the circuit breaker in the OFF position, turn on the test power supply. The circuit breaker contacts should close.

WARNING—High Voltage. Do not touch breaker or test leads while voltage is applied.

7.4.3.4 Turn the test power supply off. Disconnect its leads to the electrical operator.

7.4.3.5 Connect the test power supply leads to the terminals of the electrical operator marked “common” and “open” or “off.”

7.4.3.6 With the circuit breaker in the ON position, turn on the test power supply. The circuit breaker contacts should open.

7.4.3.7 When the test is completed, turn off the test power supply, disconnect it from the electrical operator terminals, and reconnect the control circuit wires to the electrical operator terminals. If an under-voltage trip release device was connected, refer to 7.3 for instructions.

NOTE—It may also be possible to test the operation of the electrical operator by leaving the control circuit wiring in place and energized and pushing the “open” and “close” buttons on the operator. Follow step 7.4.3 to ensure that the main power to the circuit breaker is disconnected, but the power to the control circuits would be left in place.

7.4.4 Results

The breaker should operate to the ON and OFF positions when the above steps are followed. If the breaker does not operate properly, check the connections and ensure that there is no obvious obstruction of the operating mechanism and repeat the test. If the electrical operator still does not operate properly, it should be replaced.

7.4.5 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

7.5 AUXILIARY SWITCH TESTS



Figure 13
Sample Auxiliary Switch

7.5.1 Purpose

To verify that the contacts of the auxiliary switch(es), see Figure 13, change status when the circuit breaker contacts are opened and closed.

7.5.2 Equipment

This test requires an ohmmeter or continuity tester.

7.5.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

CAUTION—Circuit breakers and accessory devices can be damaged if power is applied to the wrong terminals. The specific lead wires or terminals for each accessory must be properly identified before conducting any of the following tests.

7.5.3.1 Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals (or leads) of the auxiliary switch(es).

7.5.3.2 Starting with the circuit breaker in the OFF position, use an ohmmeter or continuity tester connected to the terminals (or leads) of each auxiliary switch, to verify that its contact position (open or closed) is in agreement with the wiring diagram provided by the manufacturer.

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release in addition to the auxiliary switch, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedures). Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals of the under-voltage release device and connect a test power supply to the terminals at rated voltage.

7.5.3.3 Connect the ohmmeter or low voltage continuity tester to the terminals (or leads) of one switch to monitor the contact.

7.5.3.4 Operate the circuit breaker to the ON position. The auxiliary switch contact should change position.

7.5.3.5 Repeat steps 7.5.3.2 through 7.5.3.4 for each auxiliary switch.

7.5.3.6 When the test is completed, reconnect the control circuit wires to the circuit breaker auxiliary switch terminals (or leads). If an under-voltage trip release device was connected, refer to 7.3 for instructions.

7.5.4 Results

Each auxiliary contact should change position (move from open to closed or vice versa) as the circuit breaker is operated from the OFF to ON or ON to OFF positions. If the auxiliary switches do not perform correctly, check the connections and repeat the test. If performance is still incorrect, the auxiliary switches should be replaced; or if the auxiliary switch is not replaceable, replace the complete breaker.

7.5.5 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.

7.6 ALARM SWITCH TESTS

7.6.1 Purpose

To verify that the alarm switch(es) contacts change status only when the circuit breaker trips.

7.6.2 Equipment

This test requires an ohmmeter or continuity tester.

7.6.3 Procedure

WARNING—Follow all safety procedures described in Clause 2.

CAUTION—Circuit breakers and accessory devices can be damaged if power is applied to the wrong terminals. The specific lead wires or terminals for each accessory must be properly identified before conducting any of the following tests.

7.6.3.1 Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals (or leads) of the alarm switches.

7.6.3.2 Connect an ohmmeter or low voltage continuity tester to the terminals (or leads) of an alarm switch to monitor the contact position (open or closed).

NOTE—If the circuit breaker is equipped with an under-voltage trip release in addition to the alarm switch, energize the trip release to allow proper operation of the circuit breaker (See 7.3 for proper procedures). Remove the control circuit wires from the terminals of the under-voltage release device and connect a test power supply to the terminals at rated voltage.

7.6.3.3 Starting with the circuit breaker in the ON position, operate the circuit breaker to the OFF position. The alarm switch contacts should not change position.

7.6.3.4 Operate the circuit breaker back to the ON position. The alarm switch contacts should not change position.

7.6.3.5 Initiate a tripping action either by a manual means, if available, or by a shunt trip release or under-voltage trip release device (See the manufacturer's instructions or 7.2 and 7.3 in the above procedures). The alarm switch contacts should change position. For circuit breakers with electronic trip units, other procedures may be required and manufacturer's instructions should be consulted.

7.6.3.6 Repeat steps 7.6.3.3 through 7.6.3.5 for other alarm switches.

7.6.3.7 When the test is completed, reconnect the control circuit wires to the alarm switch terminals (or leads). If an under-voltage trip release device was connected, refer to 7.3 for instructions.

7.6.4 Results

The alarm switch contacts should change position only when the circuit breaker undergoes a tripping operation, and not when the circuit breaker is operated to the OFF or ON position. If the performance is not as indicated in the procedure, check the connections and repeat the test. If performance is still not as indicated, the alarm switch should be replaced, if replaceable. If the alarm switch is not replaceable, replace the breaker.

7.6.5 Reinstallation Procedure

For reinstallation or replacement of the breaker and/or accessories, follow the safety installation procedures given in 2.3.