Visible Break Discussion Group

April 25, 2018 – Lake Buena Vista, FL, USA

Chair: François Soulard **Vice-Chair**: -

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order ..... François Soulard**
   Meeting start on time
2. **Introduction of Members and Guests ..... François Soulard**
3. **Self-introductions were made of the attendees.**
4. **Call for patents ..... François Soulard**

   No Patents issue was raised.

5. **Attendance and Quorum Check ..... François Soulard**

Total attendees:	36 persons
Members:	4 on 11 members
New membership:	12 persons
Guest:	20 persons
Quorum met;	69% (16 over 23 members)

6. **Approval of the Agenda ..... François Soulard**

   The fall 2017 agenda was presented:
   Motion to approve the agenda by Ian Rokser
   Second by: Tim Royster;
   Vote by consent; Minutes Approved

7. **Comments review from PES Subcommittee on definition proposal**
   a. **Discussion on comments received from Edgar Dullni (mail 2018-04-19):**

   I fully agree that one needs a sound definition of a visible break, a term which is often used in the discussions if IEEE standards.
   Though I principally accept the definition as given, I provide some additional thoughts for consideration.

   1. *Could the gap also be a static one or a gap introduced manually, or is it always a "mechanical switching device" which can be closed and opened?*

   Discussion:
   The visible break can be achieved by different way and the definition of a visible break shall be covering relevant product standard.

   2. *Does the adjective "isolating" always mean that the gap withstands the specified voltage, or can in principle be every gap a "visible break"? One has to consider that an operator can only check visibly that a gap is open, but never whether it has sufficient voltage withstand.*

   Discussion:

Yes the word “isolating” mean that it withstands a specific voltage. The dielectric withstand requirements is relevant from the product standard. We prefer to mention “dielectric withstands requirements” in the definition.

Considering these aspects and making them more obvious in the definition, I propose to extend the definition:

A mechanical switching device which provides, in the open position, an isolating gap between conductors that can be visibly verified and that complies with specified voltage withstand requirements.

Discussion on the proposed definition:

The proposed definition is declined as it is written but the points raised will be considered in the revision of the Visible Break definition.

b. LVSD member comments from David Dunne (eMail received on 2018-04-25)

1) From T. W. (Ted) Olsen

Task group definition: Visible break – an insulating gap between conductors that can be visually verified.

So, phase A separated from phase B by an air space would qualify, but this most definitely is not something that would be a “break”.

I would suggest instead;
Visible break – an insulating gap between conductors of the same phase that can be visually verified, and which is capable of meeting some defined dielectric withstand test.

2) From Doug Edwards, PE PMP

Visible break – An insulating gap between conductors that can be visually verified.

My suggested - propose changing to:
Visual break – An insulating gap between the source and load circuit elements of an electrical phase sufficient to provide insulation that can be visually verified.

3) From Terrance Woodyard

I would modify your wording to say:
“Visible break – an electrically isolating physical gap between conductors of the same phase that can be visually verified, and which is capable of meeting some set of defined dielectric requirements.”

8. Proposed changes in the report

a. Revised definition of a visible break …… Mike Whitney

Francois – Definition and Intent from Spring 2017 meeting reviewed. Open discussion on feedback received on current definition and characteristics associated with validating a visible break within the product documents.

After discussion a revised definition achieved “Visible Break - a gap between conductors that can be visually verified and meets the dielectric withstand requirements in the relevant product standard.”

Motion by M. Lafond:

Motion:

That each S/C (PES Subcommittee) representative present above definition to each PES Subcommittee for acceptance;

Visible break – a gap between conductors that can be visually verified, and meets the dielectric withstand requirements in the relevant product standard.

Second by: A. Dhawan ;

16 for

1 against

0 abstentions

Motion approved

b. Requirements …… Kennedy Darko

The requirements will be discuss at the next fall meeting after acceptance of the definition by the PES Subcommittees will be confirmed.

9. Future Meetings (to be decided if needed)…… François Soulard

a. Fall 2018; Kansas City

Attendees list

Role	First Name	Last Name	Email	Company	Country
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