



POWERTEST A GOOD MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY REFRESHER

By Don Horne

Maintenance and safety are always important to every electrician and maintenance staffer, and that is what makes the annual PowerTest conference such a popular event.

PowerTest 2008, held in New Orleans from March 17-20, is a conference designed to inform and educate those involved with electrical power system testing and maintenance. Targeted for personnel who work in electric utilities, industrial facilities, commercial buildings, and governmental facilities, PowerTest is a great source for new products and services, technical presentations involving best practices for electrical maintenance and safety procedures, codes, and standards.

Additionally, conference participants will learn about tried-and-true electrical testing techniques as well as emerging technologies now available for analysis of electrical power systems and infrastructure.

PowerTest 2008, an International Electrical Testing Association event, which includes such highlights as:

- Three Conference Tracks: Safety, Reliability, and Equipment
- Interactive Panel Sessions: Hazard Risk Analysis, Cables, and Circuit Breakers
- Interactive Symposium: Frequency of Maintenance Tests
- Keynote Address: Hugh Hoagland

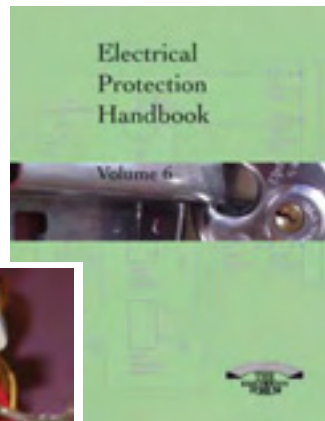
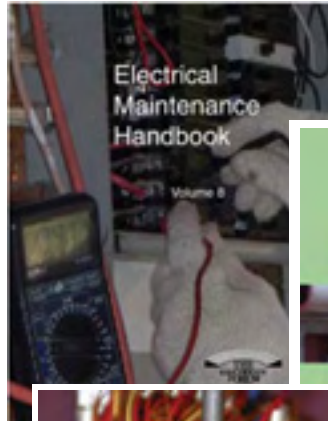
A trade show with more than 90 exhibitors, there are 12 educational seminars and the opportunity for NETA certified technicians to earn CTDs.

In-depth discussions on NFPA 70E, OSHA, NESC and electrical arc testing (where we are currently, and what lies ahead) are all valuable to those working in hazardous areas.

Indeed, any electrical professionals, be they field service technicians, operations managers, inspectors, engineers or those in utilities and relevant government agencies should pencil in PowerTest on their calendars.

The keynote address, “NFPA 70E, OSHA, NESC and Electric Arc Testing: Where Are We Today — and Where Are We Going?” by Hugh Hoagland of ArcWear.com/e-Hazard.com specifically examines this very important topic.

There has been much activity recently with standards in relation to electrical safety, concurrent to Canada’s new safety standard, CSA Z462.



The popularity of the Electricity Forum’s maintenance and power quality handbooks are testimony to the interest shown by electrical professionals in these topics

Mr. Hoagland examines the impact of standards-making to you and your business. As a professional dealing with standards as well as arc-testing of clothing and clothing systems, he understands the development of these latest standards and how they will ultimately impact all of us within the industry.

The three conference tracks are broken into down into an Equipment Track,

Reliability Track and a Safety Track, the first two sponsored by Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Cooper Power Systems respectively.

Topics for the equipment track include:

“Continuous Monitoring of the Neutral-Grounding Resistor” by Don Selkirk of Startco Engineering Ltd.; “Is That Report Done Yet? The Customer Just Called and Needs It Now!” by Mark Huckstep of Megger; and “Steps to Determine Critical Parameters for Protection of Undocumented AC Motors” by Ed Lebenhaft and Mark Zeller, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.

On the Reliability Track, topics for discussion include:

“Medium-Voltage Cable Rehabilitation Options” by Glen J. Bertini and Gary A. Vincent, Novinium, Inc.; “Electrical Inspections with the Use of Thermography, Ultrasound and Ultraviolet Technology” by Craig Casler, Absolute Infrared Inspection Services; and “A New, Ultra-Low-Cost Power Quality Measurement Technology” by Andreas Eberhard and Alex McEachern, Power Standards Lab.

For the Safety Track, topics include:

“Electrical Equipment Performance and the Impact to Personnel – An Arc-Flash Exposure Dilemma” by Kerry Heid of Magna Electric Corporation and Ron Widup of Shemco Industries; “Application of Existing Technologies to Reduce Arc-Flash Hazards” by Jim Buff and Karl Zimmerman of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.; and “Who’s at the Controls? Safety Concerns Regarding the Application and Use of Electrical Test Equipment” by Bret Hammonds, Megger.

Also, there is a Frequency of Maintenance Tests Symposium that will provide an excellent opportunity to share experiences and advice. Led by moderator Ron Widup of Shemco Industries, panel participants include William Bartley of Hartford Steam Boiler, Michael Kern of FM Global and Bob Schuerger of IEEE Gold Book.

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