

SIEMENS

August 20, 2009

«Customer_Contact»
«Customer_Name»
«Customer_Site_Address_Street»
«Customer_Site_Address_City», «Customer_Site_Address_State», «Customer_Site_Address_Zip»
«Customer_Tel»
«Customer_Email»

Attention: «Customer_Contact»

Subject: **Product Safety Advisory**
Siemens Type GMI Circuit Breakers and Electrically-Operated Ground & Test Devices
with type VS-15050 Vacuum Interrupter
Shipped after March, 2005

Reference: «Customer_Project_Name»
Customer PO: «Customer_PO»
Siemens SO: «Siemens_SO»

Nature of Hazard:

Siemens has recently discovered an issue with type GMI circuit breakers and type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices, rated up to 15kV, and equipped with vacuum interrupter type VS-15050, shipped after March, 2005. These circuit breakers may be designated in several forms, with the type designations:

- 05-GMI-350
- 07-GMI-500
- 15-GMI-1000
- 05-GMI-50
- 07-GMI-50
- 15-GMI-50
- GMI-GTD

This issue does not affect any other type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices than those listed above. It does not affect any type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices shipped before March, 2005. It does not affect type GMI circuit breakers equipped with type VS-17006 vacuum interrupter.

On the affected type GMI circuit breakers and type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices using the type VS-15050 vacuum interrupter, there is a possibility that the circuit breaker or electrically-operated ground & test device may not fully open when an open (or trip) command is given. On rare occasions, the cylindrical tube that encloses the shock absorber may become jammed on the threads of the shock absorber.

If this occurs, the circuit breaker or electrically-operated ground & test device will not be able to fully open. This is a potentially hazardous situation. It may result in the load circuit continuing to be

Siemens Energy, Inc.

Power Distribution

7000 Siemens Road • Wendell, NC 27591 • Tel: (919) 365-2200

energized, and it may be difficult to remove the breaker or ground & test device from the switchgear compartment or rack it in the compartment under this condition.

This will likely cause death, personal injury, or property damage.

Concern:

If the shock absorber jams in the cylindrical tube, two situations may result.

First, and most important, the circuit breaker or ground & test device may fail to fully open when commanded to do so, whether by electrical command or by manual actuation of the push-to-open button on the circuit breaker. If the circuit breaker fails to open, the load circuits controlled by the circuit breaker will remain energized, and circuit breaker indicator may indicate that the circuit breaker is open. If the ground & test device fails to open, the portion of the circuit which was grounded by the device will remain grounded, and the device position indicator may indicate that the ground & test device is open.

Second, if the circuit breaker or ground & test device does not fully open, the interlocks that prevent racking of a closed circuit breaker or ground & test device will prevent access to the racking mechanism using the racking crank, and forceful attempts to remove the circuit breaker or ground & test device from the compartment will result in damage to the circuit breaker or ground & test device, to the switchgear structure and racking interlocks, or perhaps to both.

Immediate Action Required by «Customer Name»:

When opening the circuit breaker or ground & test device, verify that the circuit breaker or ground & test device has fully opened by every means available:

- Verify “open” status on the circuit breaker or ground & test device visible
- Use current (ampere) indication means (ammeter, power meter, metering function in protective relay, or other means) to check that current in each phase is zero.

If it is necessary to rack the circuit breaker or ground & test device in the cell (whether from connected position to test or disconnect position, or from disconnect or test position to connect position), follow instructions in the switchgear instruction manual. If the racking crank socket cannot be inserted onto the end of the racking mechanism, or any other difficulty is experienced, do not apply excessive force or use extraordinary means in attempting to rack the circuit breaker or ground & test device. Notify Siemens Customer Service immediately.

Place the attached product safety label on each circuit breaker compartment. This product safety label must remain on the circuit breaker compartment until the upgrade is completed on each circuit breaker or ground & test device furnished with the switchgear.

Solution:

At your convenience, Siemens will modify the circuit breaker or ground & test device to correct the issue with the shock absorber. Please call Siemens Customer Service at the number identified below to arrange for service. The circuit breaker or ground & test device must be removed from the switchgear in order to make the repair. If difficulty in racking has been experienced, it will be necessary to de-energize the switchgear so that the circuit breaker or ground & test device can be safely removed from the compartment in order to perform the upgrade.

Additional actions required by «Customer Name»:

1. Complete and return the enclosed response form. Include detailed address and contact information so that our representative will know whom to contact to make arrangements to modify the circuit breakers or ground & test devices, and will know how to get to the site.
2. If you are not the user of the type GM switchgear, notify your customer of this product advisory. Please choose one of the following methods:
 - a. Notify your customer directly. Forward this product advisory to your customer, **OR**
 - b. Supply a list of your customers, including contact information, to Siemens, and Siemens will contact your customer directly, **OR**
 - c. Indicate on the enclosed response form that you do not have a list of customers to whom the switchgear was sold, and are unable to locate the switchgear.
3. Please sign and date the enclosed response form to indicate which course of action you are taking. Return the completed form to Siemens at:

Siemens Energy, Inc.
Customer Service Department
7000 Siemens Road
Wendell, NC 27591

Attention: Safety Advisory – GMI 50kA Shock Tube Upgrade
Phone: (919) 365-2858
FAX: (919) 365-1040

Actions required by Siemens:

1. Upon receipt of correct contact information and address information, Siemens will make contact to make arrangements to perform the modifications to the circuit breakers.
2. Siemens will work with you to arrange for a service representative to perform this upgrade with minimum interference with your operations. The actual upgrade takes only a short time once the circuit breaker or ground & test device is out of the switchgear compartment. If problems have been experienced and the circuit breaker or ground & test device cannot be removed from the switchgear by normal means, the switchgear must be placed in an Electrically Safe Work Condition in accordance with NFPA 70E by others in order for Siemens to perform this work.

Siemens remains committed to providing the best quality of products available and we regret the impact this will have on your operations. Please forward this Service Advisory to the appropriate persons (Quality, Engineering or Customer Service Manager) within your organization to ensure that this issue is appropriately addressed.

Sincerely,
Siemens Customer Service
(919) 365-2858

Attachment:

Response Form - Safety Advisory:

Type GMI Circuit Breakers and type GMI-GTD Electrically-Operated Ground & Test Devices – shock absorber upgrade

Return to: Siemens Energy, Inc.
Customer Service Department
7000 Siemens Road
Wendell, NC 27591
FAX: (919) 365-1040

Your Name: _____
Print or type name Signature

Phone/FAX _____
Phone FAX

Date: _____

«Customer_Name» is reporting the status of the course of action taken in accordance with the Siemens Product Safety Advisory of August 5, 2009:

Check appropriate status:

- «Customer_Name» is the user of the type GM switchgear and type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices.
- «Customer_Name» is NOT the user of the type GM switchgear and type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices, and we have forwarded the Siemens Energy product advisory to the affected customer(s) – contact information of the user to whom the advisory was forwarded is provided below (additional sheets as required if more than one user involved).
- «Customer_Name» is NOT the user of the type GM switchgear and type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices, and we are providing a list of the affected customers to Siemens Energy – contact information of the user to whom the advisory was forwarded is provided below (additional sheets as required if more than one user involved).
- «Customer_Name» is NOT the user of the type GM switchgear and type GMI circuit breakers or type GMI-GTD electrically-operated ground & test devices, and we do not have a list of affected customers to whom the type GM switchgear and type GMI circuit breaker equipment was sold, and we are unable to locate this equipment.

If «Customer_Name» is the user, the contact information and address to be used to make arrangements for modification of the circuit breakers is provided below OR if «Customer_Name» is NOT the user, the advisory has either been forwarded to the user or needs to be forwarded to the user, at the address below:

Company	_____
Street address	_____

City, State, Zip	_____
Marking / identification	_____
Contact person	_____
Contact phone / FAX	_____