
Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) Program

Operating Modes Policy

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1 Scope

This policy applies to the settings at zone substations where REFCLs have been commissioned.

Where a Total Fire Ban day has been declared for a particular district (e.g. West & South Gippsland), the policy applies to a zone substation that supplies any part of that region.

2 Policy

The aim of this policy is to maximise the benefits of REFCL operation, particularly the fire ignition reduction benefits, while efficiently operating and maintaining the network.

REFCL settings are to be applied as shown in the table below.

Period	Priorities	Settings
Total Fire Ban & Code Red Days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit the risk of bushfire ignition. 2. Keep the power on. 	<p>Required Capacity i.e. 0.5 amps</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switching associated with fault & emergency works • REFCL equipment faults • When FDI is less than 30 <p>During exceptions, REFCL should be operated in Standard mode if practical.</p>
Fire Danger Period - Non TFB/Code Red Days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep the power on. 2. Minimise impact on customers from maintenance and replacement activities. 3. Limit the risk of bushfire ignition. 	<p>Standard - target range > 0.5amps & < 2.5amps</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switching associated with fault & emergency works • During Glove & Barrier live-line work • When network capacitive balance cannot be maintained during planned work or more customers are impacted by undertaking work with the REFCL in service. • REFCL equipment faults • When Fire Danger Rating is Low or there is no fire danger Forecast. <p>During exceptions, REFCL can be operated in REFCL-NER mode or switched out.</p>
Non-Fire Danger Period (Winter)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep the power on. 2. Minimise impact on customers from maintenance and replacement activities. 3. Use REFCL to minimise outages (transient faults) 	<p>REFCL-NER (>2.5amps)</p>

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3 Review

This policy should be reviewed when;

- further operational experience is obtained (after multiple REFCLs have operated over a summer period), or
- suitable equipment has been identified to allow Glove & Barrier live-line work to be safely and effectively completed with the REFCL in service, or
- in August 2023.