

MSHA Policy Letter for Suitability, Safety & Performance of Circuit Breakers

This document is adapted from the Coal Mine Health and Safety Administration's (MSHA) Program Policy Letter No. P10-V-8 for the Suitability, Safety, and Performance of Circuit Breakers, dated November 23, 2010.

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1. What is required by MSHA with respect to breaker maintenance and testing in a coal mine?

The Code of Federal Regulations under Title 30 75.900-4 and 77.900-2, requires monthly examination and testing of circuit breakers by qualified persons, to insure they are working properly and are safe to operate. The mine operator is responsible for keeping records of these monthly inspections and tests. Any repairs or adjustments made to the breaker outside and returned to the mine (for example by an Eaton Breaker Service Center or third party repair shop) must be also kept in a written record in the mine operator's MSHA approved record book.

2. Why was the MSHA Policy P10-V8 written?

The MSHA Policy Letter P10-V-8 was written in response to MSHA's investigation of a number of serious accidents, including one fatality, involving improperly maintained circuit breakers. The MSHA policy paper is designed to help coal mine operators and MSHA inspectors identify breakers which have been improperly repaired or insufficiently maintained, so they can be removed from service before harm is done. It also helps to enforce the existing Title 30 regulations for breaker inspection, testing, and maintenance.

3. What is Eaton doing to help coal companies address these regulations?

Eaton operates two service centers dedicated to the testing and repair of mining and large industrial breakers. These facilities use factory test criteria, processes and parts to restore breakers to original design specifications. Effective March 1, 2011, Eaton will provide a factory service report and label on every mining circuit breaker. The report contains details about the specific service provided and is designed to be part of the coal mine operator's record book. It will include the date of service and type of service performed. Both new and serviced breakers are sold through Eaton's network of authorized channel partners.

4. Is it possible to obtain a copy of the factory service report after the breaker has been sent to the facility, in the case of a lost or misplaced report?

Eaton's Breaker Service Centers will maintain original copies of breaker service reports. Eaton plans to make additional reports available for purchase on request.



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5. What is the requirement for breakers serviced prior to Eaton's March 1 implementation date for reports, for example those in a mine or distributor inventory?

MSHA recognizes that detailed service records prior to March 1 may not be readily available. It is instructing personnel to use visual cues to assess whether a breaker should be put back in service. Flags that a breaker is not suitable for service include improper labeling, epoxy filler or paint on the breaker frame, cracks in the housing, burnt or black areas or other warping which indicate overheating, and metallic parts attached to the breaker face.

6. It is against MSHA's policy to have a non-Eaton facility service or repair an Eaton circuit breaker?

No. MSHA does not stipulate that only the original equipment manufacturer can service their product. The MSHA policy requires that if a breaker has been rebuilt by a third party facility, the name of the rebuild facility be marked on the product label. MSHA also recommends that coal operators review the service record of its rebuild vendors, and consider of past repair problems when awarding future business.

7. Where can I find more information?

For the complete MSHA Program Policy Letter, visit <http://www.msha.gov> and search P10-V-8. For more information about Eaton Breaker Service, refer to our Breaker Service Capabilities Product Aid PA012170001E at www.eaton.com/mining. Technical Data TD01217002E compares test data from factory production and third-party reconditioned mining circuit breakers is also available on at www.eaton.com/mining.

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Printed in USA
Publication No. MZ01215001E / RG
February 2011