
JUNE 25, 2020

COVID-19/Coronavirus

Cleaning and disinfecting substances

The current situation regarding SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus may require environment and surfaces disinfection to prevent the virus spread.

Our organization recognizes the importance of such treatment, but we would like to advise our customers about the possible negative effects that these substances, used for the disinfection, may cause on electrical equipment¹.

Some of the products used against COVID-19 (e.g. those in EPA's List N²) are based on Sodium hypochlorite, Quaternary ammonium, Hydrogen chloride or Hydrogen Peroxide, that can cause corrosion and material degradation in electrical equipment, impairing their performances, reliability and safe operation.

For this reason, we would like to recommend to please DO NOT use such above mentioned products to clean electrical equipment.

As you can see in the international standard documentation, we recommend the use of cleaning products based on Ethanol (alcohol), applying the following general cleaning actions:

- De-energize electrical equipment* from all external power sources and allow hot surfaces to cool.
- Apply the product using a lint-free cloth, avoiding dripping.
- Never spray or use ethanol directly on electrical equipment*.
- Do not wipe with pressure on printed labels and nameplates.
- Ensure ethanol and his vapors do not get into any openings.
- Let cleaning solutions dry before re-energizing the electrical equipment*.

Alternative disinfection methods need to be carefully evaluated preventing risk of damages of electrical equipment.

The recommendations also apply to equipment at stock in the original packaging.

DISCLAIMER

The information presented in this document is considered "technically sound", it means that the content requires the application of the best practices with the correct skilled people support.

Any content of the document does not substitute local laws and regulations and it is in addition to applicable product manuals or technical data sheets and to commonly known behavior that technical experts are required to observe.

ABB does not undertake to guarantee the effectiveness of disinfection from COVID-19 of equipment following this guideline.

ABB expressly disclaims any responsibility for damages arising from the use, application, or reliance by others on the information contained in this document.

References:

All information received is available in international standard documentation

¹ NEMA GD 4-2020. COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Electrical Equipment. Version 1, May 13, 2020
<https://www.nema.org/Standards/SecureDocuments/NEMA%20GD%204-2020%20WATERMARKED.pdf>

² U.S. Environmental Protection List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Issued by: Smart Power, Electrification business

Product Applicability*: Low Voltage Circuit Breakers & Enclosures, Nema Enclosed products, Motor starting & Safety Switches & Fusegears, Service Products