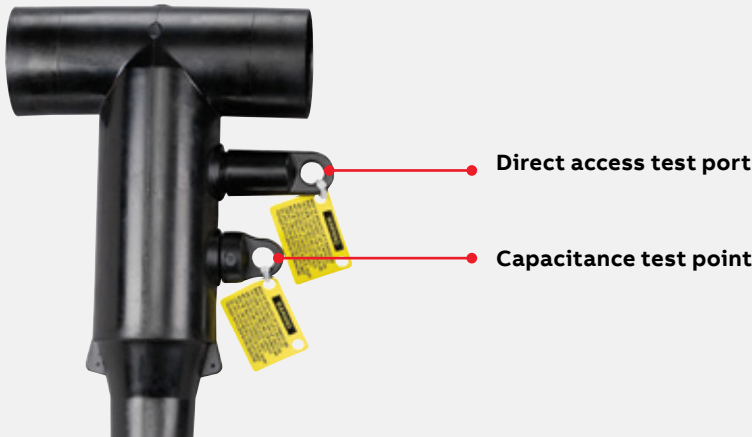


CASE STUDY



Direct test access port



In today's working environments, everyone is responsible for safety. At ABB, we fully understand the importance of safety, and the Elastimold direct access port is just one way we work to help improve the safety of electrical crews.

— Example of Elastimold product — K656 BLR with capacitance test point and direct access test port.

Background

Electric utilities continue to struggle to ensure the safety of their linemen. One of the accepted safety practices is to verify that the system has been de-energized before conducting any work on an electrical system. One method of verifying that the system has been properly de-energized is through using a capacitance testing device, better known as a capacitance test point. These devices have been accepted in the industry for many years, including Standard IEEE 386-2016. However, these devices have some limitations in actual field installations, caused by varying factors that influence testing results. These include capacitance test equipment inaccuracies and earth grounding conditions, to name a few.

Solution

The Elastimold brand encompasses a full line of 200 and 600 amp cable accessory products that feature a reliable, field-proven capacitance test point. In addition, Elastimold products offer a direct test access port interface, which provides crews a means for testing the cable accessory directly. Direct testing

provides the actual system voltage reading, which confirms if the accessory is fully de-energized. The actual voltage readings are received via a direct access port that provides access to the specific cable conductor. Once the system has been directly tested using the Elastimold direct test access point and the field-proven capacitance test point and energization status is verified, crews can proceed with their normal work practices safely, knowing the system has been verified and tested to be de-energized.

The direct access port feature can be added to most Elastimold products. Normally used on deadbreak products, the feature can also be used on loadbreak accessories. A 200TC adapter is included with the access port feature. This adapter is recommended to be used on the end of any hot stick, with the appropriate voltage meter.

Overall results

A local utility in the northeastern USA recently adopted as its practice to use both the capacitance test point and the direct test access port to help ensure the safety of its line crews.