

MEDIUM VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR

alfa A up to 17.5KV



safety...
durability



Contents

1 - Introduction to alfa A	4
a- alfa A Key Features.....	5
b- Standards.....	5
c- Quality Management.....	5
2 - alfa A in Networks	6
3 - Applications	7
4 - Product Breakdown	8
5 - Substations Arrangement	9
6 - Technical Data	11
7 - Configuration (Functional Units)	
8 - Drawings	15
9 - Main Components	16
A - Vacuum Circuit Breaker VCB	16
1- Arc-quenching Media	16
2- Switching Devices	17
3- VCB Features and Technical Data	17
B - Instrument Transformers IT	21
1- Current Transformer	21
2- Voltage Transformer	21
3- CBCT	21
C - Power System Protection	21
a- Basic Requirements of Protection System	21
b- Relays	23
1- Protective Relays	23
• Overcurrent Relay	23
• Directional Overcurrent Relay	23
• Differential Relay	24
2- Auxiliary Relays	24
• Tripping Relays	24
• Monitoring Relays.....	25
• Contacts Multiplication Relays	25
D - High Speed Earthing Switch	25
10 - Type Test	27
11 - Order Form	28

1 - Introduction to alfa A

alfa A Switchgear offers high personal and operating safety, optimal availability, secure engineering, easy operation and high efficiency with low lifecycle costs. Take our word for it! Our engineers provide you with competent support, detailed advice and complete information to see your project through from the start of the design process through to commissioning and handover.



alfa A Switchgear are withdrawable, air-insulated, tested for resistance to internal arc faults IAC AFLR in cable, busbar and CB compartments and are metal enclosed within a fourfold compartment. Our switchgear products are developed and manufactured by **alfanar** in our industrial complex. The switchgears comply with the highest quality requirements and are factory-assembled and type-tested in accordance with the latest IEC standards and GCC specifications.

a - alfa A Key Features

Type-tested switchgear for indoor installation in accordance with IEC 62271-1, 62271-200, 62271-100 and IEC 62271-102 standards have the following features:

- Five individual Metal-Enclosed construction for the main busbar, the switching device, the cable connection, low voltage devices and CT's / VT's
- Safety of personal is verified by internal arc fault test.
- Switchgear are designed to release the arc pressure upwards in all compartments.
- Interchangeability and uniformity of all removable parts.

Highest personal and operating safety features

- All electrical and mechanical operating procedures take place when the enclosure doors are closed.
- Maximized operating safety owing to serial production, complete mechanical interlocking system.
- Independent operating metallic Shutters automatically protect the isolating contacts when the unit is withdrawn.
- Make-proof earthing switches.
- High availability resulting from the quick exchange of the withdrawable units.
- Closed door rack-in and rack-out of Vacuum Circuit Breaker ensures full safety for personnel.

Durable and geared for the future

- Panels are air-insulated and use a minimum amount of insulant volumes
- Ideal assembly is possible due to technical and economic factors
- Spare parts are easily obtainable because of the use of standard insulators, standard instrument transformers, standard switching devices and standard copper sections

Meeting the highest quality requirements

- State-of- art manufacturing techniques using a high precision laser cutting system which guarantees perfect dimensional accuracy.
- Distortion resistant cubicle frame made of top quality Alu-Zinc/GI sheet steel that is bolted together.
- Internal arc resistant, double sheet steel partitions between panels.
- Busbar partitioning from panel to panel as an optional.
- Electrostatic powder coating of the front door and side panels.
- In accordance with quality management system EN ISO 9001

b - Standards

alfa A switchgear and the main apparatus contained in it comply with the following Standards:

- IEC 62271-1 for general purposes
- IEC 62271-200 for switchgear
- IEC 62271-102 for earthing switch
- IEC 62271-100 for circuit breakers
- IEC 61850 Communication networks and systems for power utility automation
- IEC 61869 Instrument transformers
- IEC 60529 Degrees of protection provided by enclosures

c - Quality Management

alfa A units are produced with an integrated quality system carefully defined for all departments. During each stage of the manufacturing process we ensure that the alfa A units are built perfectly, and comply with adherence standards. The medium voltage quality system has been certified as being fully compliant with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 quality assurance model.

Quality Checks

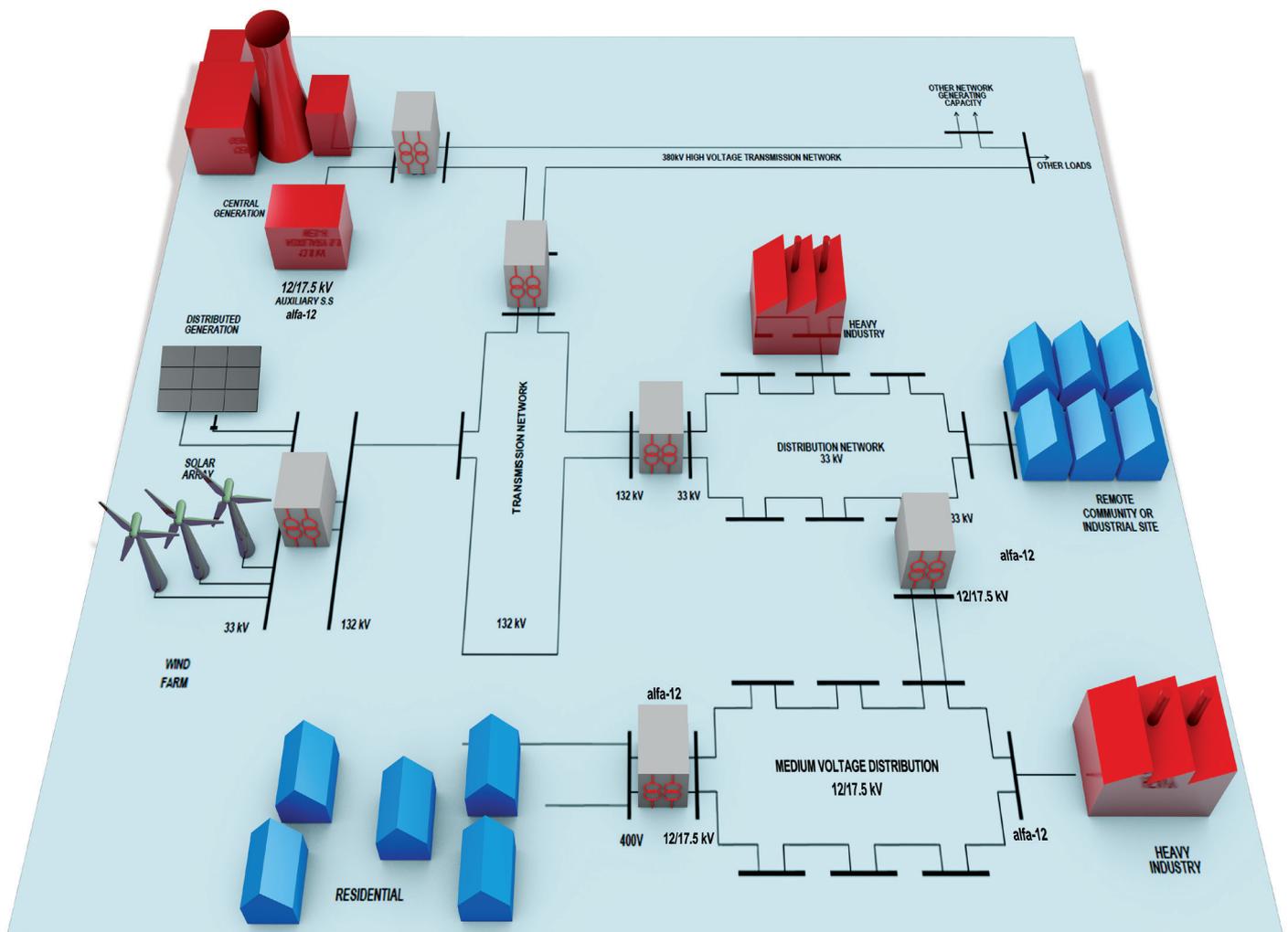
The quality checked carried out include a visual inspection and check of:

- Mechanical sequence operations
- Wiring Checks
- Electrical sequence operations
- Power frequency withstand voltage
- Measurement of the resistance of the main circuits
- Secondary insulation test

2 – alfa A in Power Grid

Sub-transmission lines carry large amounts of power from the bulk power substations to the main distribution substations within the immediate area of use at intermediate voltages. The medium voltage network carries electrical power from the primary distribution substations either directly to large industrial and commercial consumers or to distribution centers within residential areas at medium voltages. The primary feeders carry the electrical power from distribution centers to step down distribution transformers where the cable carries the electrical power from the distribution transformer to loads.

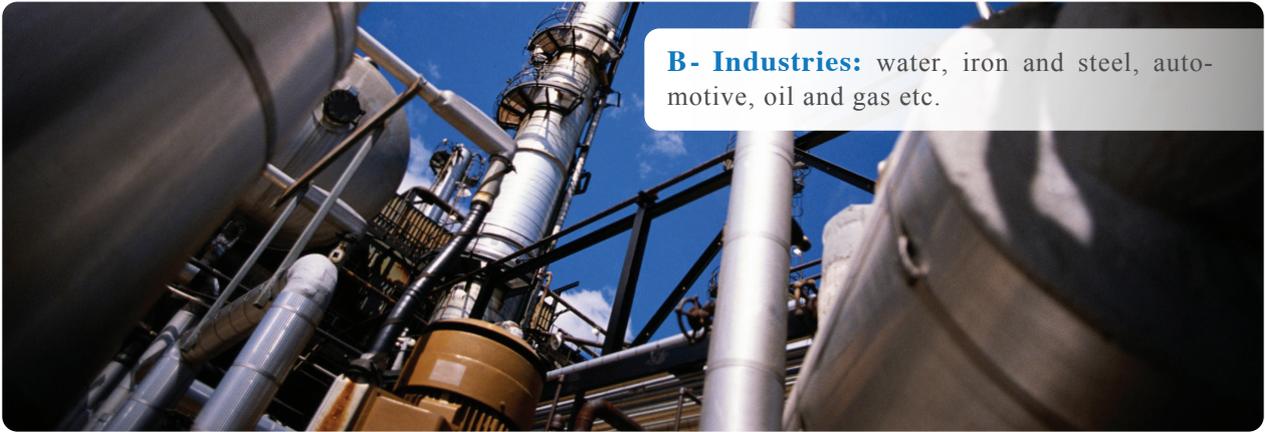
With its ultimate safe features and credibility, **alfa A Switchgear** is the best solution for MV applications, either near to the load or to a generation plant in the auxiliary substations.



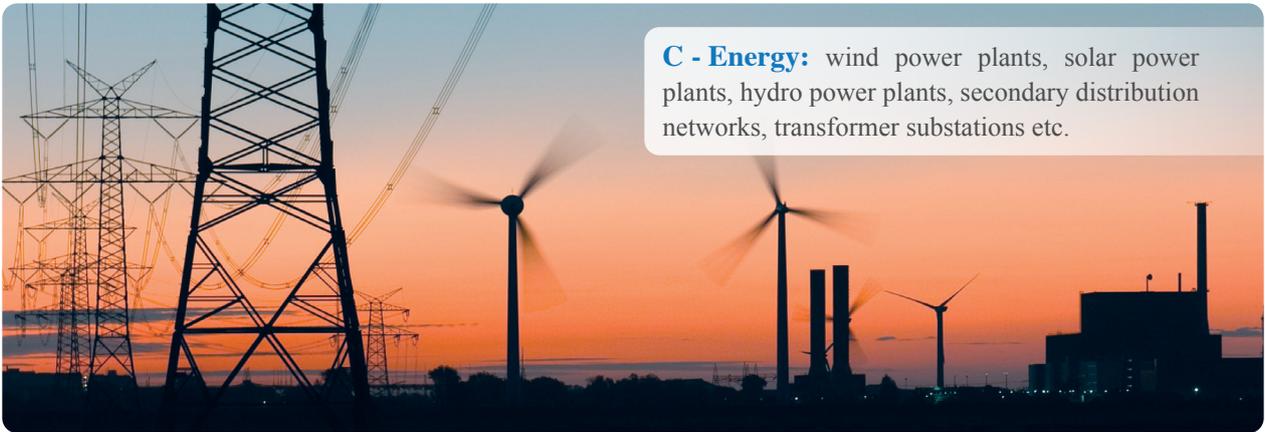
3 - Applications



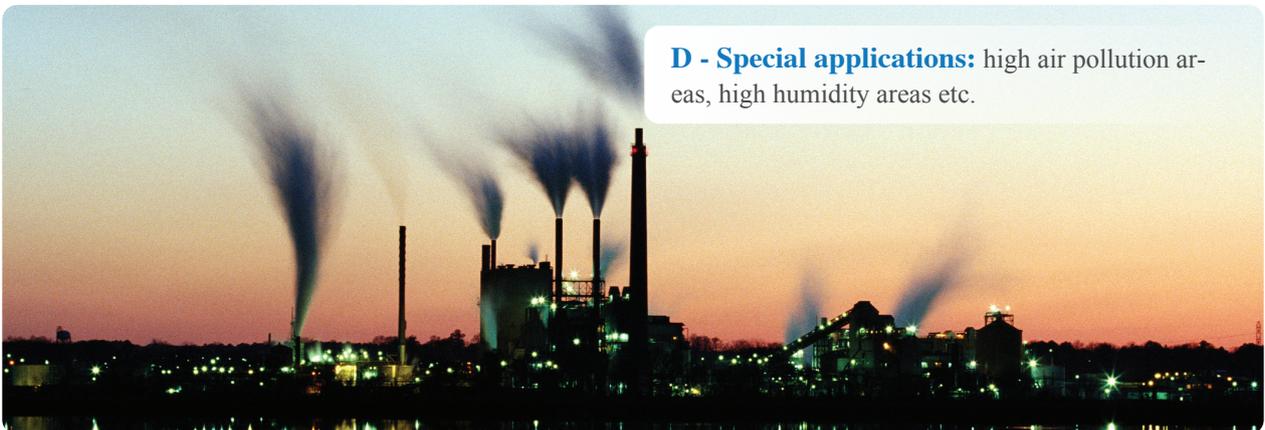
A - Infrastructure and buildings: ports, railway stations, airports, hospitals, schools, hotels, malls, commercial centers, holiday resorts etc.



B - Industries: water, iron and steel, automotive, oil and gas etc.

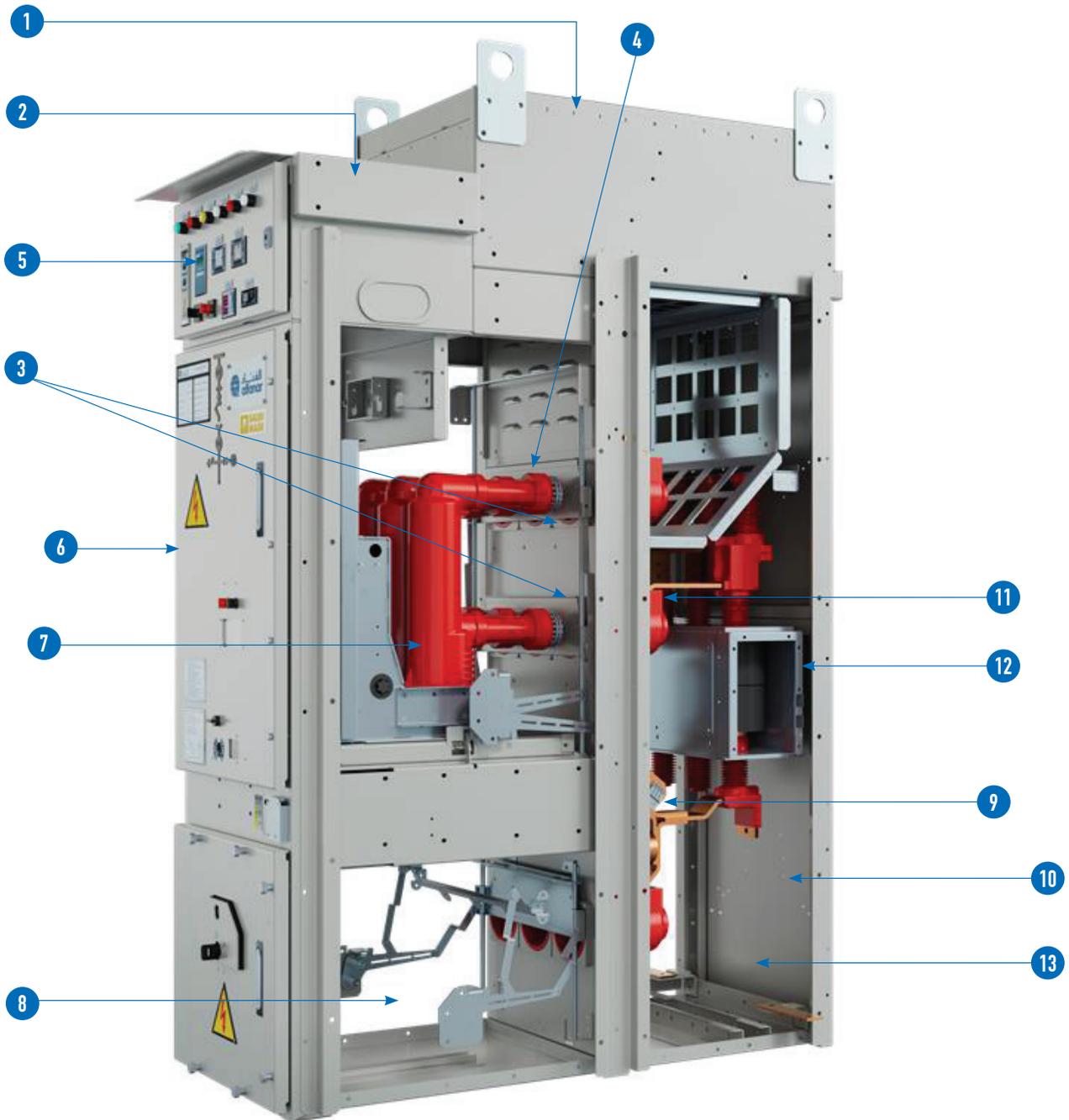


C - Energy: wind power plants, solar power plants, hydro power plants, secondary distribution networks, transformer substations etc.



D - Special applications: high air pollution areas, high humidity areas etc.

4 - Product Breakdown



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Pressure flaps | 7 | Vacuum circuit breaker |
| 2 | Low voltage compartment | 8 | VT compartment |
| 3 | Shutters | 10 | Rear door |
| 4 | VCB contacts | 11 | Spout bushing |
| 5 | Relay | 12 | Current transformer |
| 6 | VCB door | 13 | Power cable compartment |

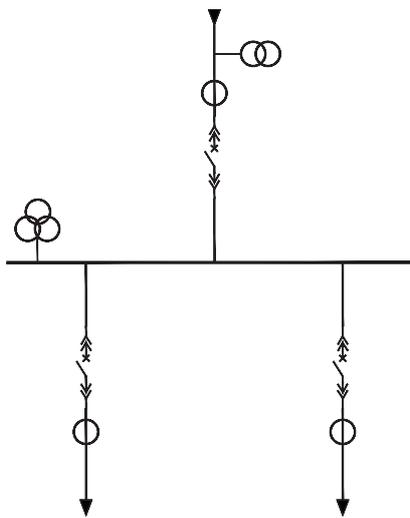
5 – Substations Arrangement

There are many different electrical bus system schemes available, the consumer should be aware about the main criteria during selection for any arrangement scheme:

1. Simplicity of system.
2. Easy maintenance of different equipment.
3. Minimizing the outage during maintenance.
4. Future provision of extension with growth of demand.
5. Optimizing the selection of busbar arrangement scheme so that it gives maximum return from the system.

a) Single bus – Single breaker

The medium voltage switchgears with a single busbar are a clear solution for your power supply with minimal space requirements. This arrangement involves one main bus with all circuits connected directly to the bus.

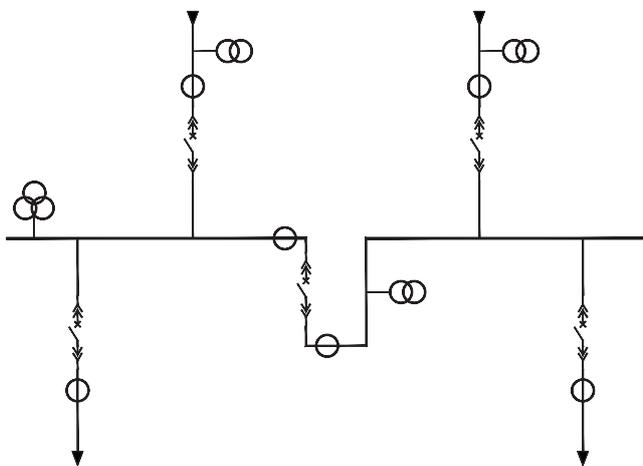


- **Advantages:**
 - a. Cost effective
 - b. Simple circuit
 - c. Easy to apply differential protection
 - d. Requires only one set of VTs to monitor the voltage of busbar
- **Disadvantages:**
 - a. Low reliability, any fault will cause outage of the system
 - b. Harder to conduct maintenance on the system
 - c. Low flexibility

Figure 4
Single bus – single breaker

b) Single Buses connected with bus coupler

If any of the sources is out of the system, all loads can be fed by switching on the sectional or bus coupler breaker. If one section of the busbar system is under maintenance, part load of the substation can be fed by energizing the other section of the busbar.



- **Advantages:**
 - a. Cost effective
 - b. Moderately simple circuit
 - c. Moderately easy to apply differential protection
 - d. Can be used with a large number of circuits
 - e. More reliable than the SB-SCB
- **Disadvantages:**
 - a. Low reliability, any fault in any section will cause outage of that section
 - b. Harder to conduct maintenance on certain sections
 - c. Low flexibility
 - d. Requires two or more VTs depending on the number of bus sections

Figure 5
Single buses connected with bus coupler

c) Ring Bus

In this scheme, as indicated by the name, all breakers are arranged in a ring with circuits tapped between breakers. For a failure on a circuit, the two adjacent breakers will trip without affecting the rest of the system. Similarly, a single bus failure will only affect the adjacent breakers and allow the rest of the system to remain energized. However, a breaker failure or breakers that fail to trip will require adjacent breakers to be tripped to isolate the fault.

- **Advantages:**

- a. High flexibility
- b. High reliability
- c. Cost effective compared to other high reliability systems
- d. Easier maintenance on the system
- e. Requires less area than above systems

- **Disadvantages:**

- a. Requires more VTs depending on the number of lines
- b. Its differential is complex and similar to line differential protection
- c. The required protection system is complex

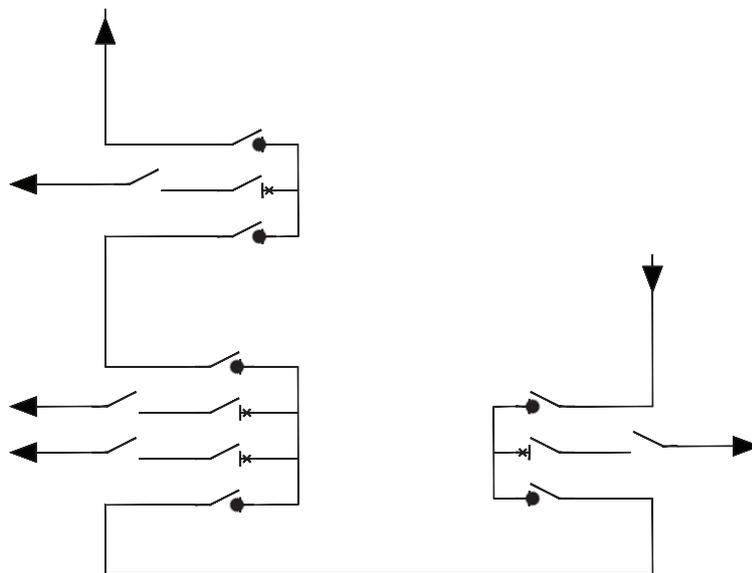


Figure 6
Parallel feeder network

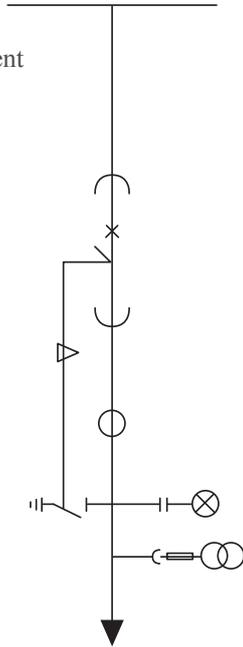
6 – Technical Data

Technical Data & Type Description		Feeder Panel	Bus Coupler Panel	Bus Riser Panel	Metering BVT/Earthing Panel
Rated Voltage	[KV]	17.5 kV			
Rated Main Current	[A]	Up to 1250A			
Switchgear Dimension W x D x H	W [mm]	600		600	
	D [mm]	1450			
	H [mm]	2200			
Ingress of Protection	IP4X/41	IP41			
Switchgear Insulation Medium		Air Insulated			
Switchgear Power Frequency Withstand Voltage	kV	38			
Switchgear Lightning Impulse Withstand Voltage	kVp	95			
Switchgear Short Circuit Withstand Current	kA (sec)	up to 31.5kA / 3s			
Arcing Due to Internal Fault	kA (sec)	up to 31.5 kA / 1s			
Class of Internal Arc Protection		AFLR			
Main and Dropper Busbar (Sub Busbar) Material		Copper			
Enclosure Material		Alu-Zinc 2			
Capacitive Switching		C2		N/A	
Type of Interrupting Medium		Vacuum		N/A	
Voltage Transformer		VT		VT	

7 - Configuration (Functional Units)

Incomer and Feeder OF / IF

- Busbar compartment
- Circuit breaker compartment
- MV cable compartment
- Low voltage compartment
- VT compartment
- CT Compartment



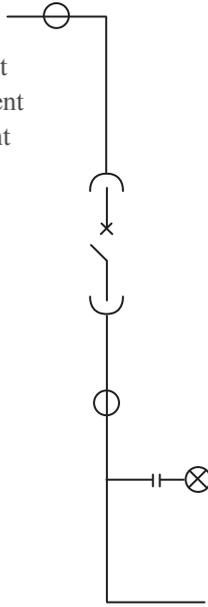
IF/OF

Electrical Characteristics		
Rated Voltage	17.5	kV
Service Voltage	13.8	kV
Rated Power Frequency Withstand Voltage	38	kV
Rated Impulse Withstand Voltage	95	kV
Rated Short Time Current	up to 31.5	kA
Rated Short Circuit Time	3	sec
Rated Operation Sequence	O-0.3s-CO-15s-CO	
Rated Peak Current	81.9KA	kA
Ambient Temperature	55	C
Rated Frequency	50 / 60	Hz
Rated Busbar Current	Up to 1250A	A
Control Voltage	125 ⁽¹⁾	VDC
Degree of Protection	IP41	
Color/Painting	RAL 7035 ⁽¹⁾	
Internal Arc Classification	AFLR	
Internal Arc Fault	up to 31.5	kA
Dimension		
Width of one panel type alfa A IF/OF/BC/BR/VT	600	mm
Height of one panel	2200	mm
Depth of one panel	1450	mm

(1) As per customer requirement

Bus coupler BC

- Upper busbar compartment
- Circuit breaker compartment
- Lower busbar compartment
- Low voltage compartment
- CT Compartment



BC

Electrical Characteristics

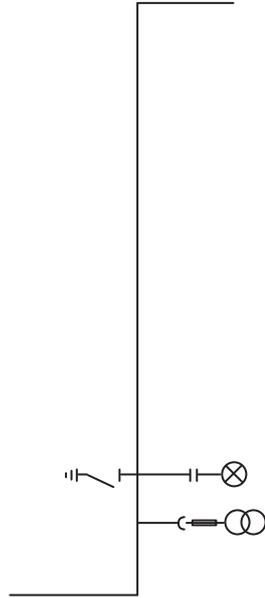
Rated Voltage	17.5	kV
Service Voltage	13.8	kV
Rated Power Frequency Withstand Voltage	38	kV
Rated Impulse Withstand Voltage	95	kV
Rated Short Time Current	up to 31.5	kA
Rated Short Circuit Time	3	sec
Rated Operation Sequence	O-0.3s-CO-15s-CO	
Rated Peak Current	81.9	kA
Ambient Temperature	55	C
Rated Frequency	50 / 60	Hz
Rated Busbar Current	1250A	A
Control Voltage	125	VDC
Degree of Protection	IP41	
Color/Painting	RAL7035	
Internal Arc Classification	AFLR	
Internal Arc Fault	up to 31.5	kA

Dimension

Width of one panel type alfa A IF/OF/BC/BR/VT	600	mm
Height of one panel	2200	mm
Depth of one panel	1450	mm

Bus riser BR

- Busbar compartment
- Low voltage compartment
- VT compartment



BR

Electrical Characteristics

Rated Voltage	17.5	kV
Service Voltage	13.8	kV
Rated Power Frequency Withstand Voltage	38	kV
Rated Impulse Withstand Voltage	95	kV
Rated Short Time Current	up to 31.5	kA
Rated Short Circuit Time	3	sec
Rated Operation Sequence	NA	
Rated Peak Current	81.9	kA
Ambient Temperature	55	C
Rated Frequency	50 / 60	Hz
Rated Busbar Current	Up to 1250A	A
Control Voltage	125 ⁽¹⁾	VDC
Degree of Protection	IP41	
Color/Painting	RAL7035 ⁽¹⁾	
Internal Arc Classification	AFLR	
Internal Arc Fault	up to 31.5	kA

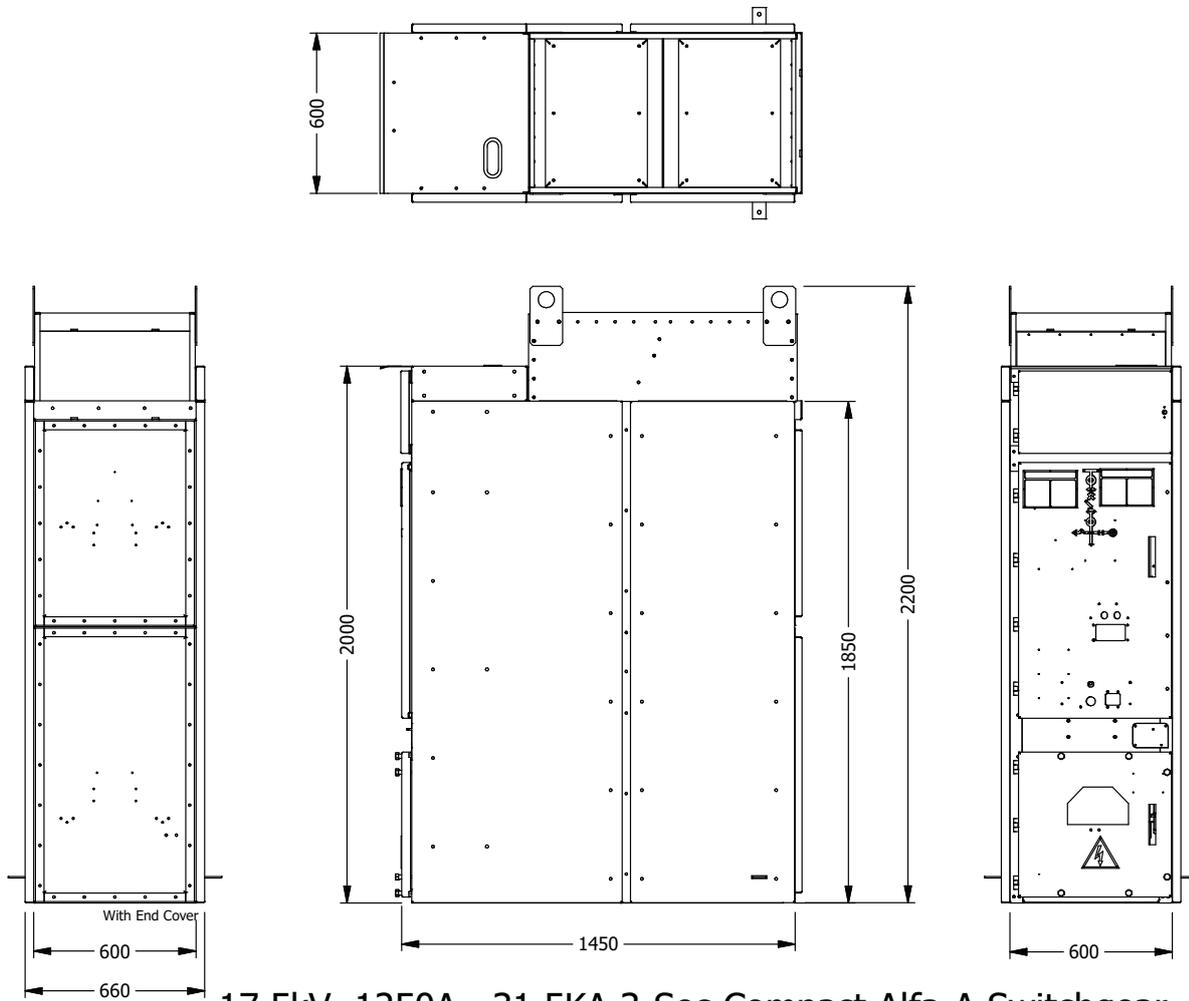
Dimension

Width of one panel type alfa A IF/OF/BC/BR/VT	600	mm
Height of one panel	2200	mm
Depth of one panel	1450	mm

(1) As per customer requirement

* Optional

8 - Drawings



17.5kV, 1250A , 31.5KA 3-Sec Compact Alfa-A Switchgear

9 – Main Components

A – Vacuum circuit breaker VCB

Although there are still air, compressed air, bulk oil and minimum oil switches and circuit breakers in service, most of the modern switching and interpreting devices are vacuum type or SF₆.

1 – Arc-quenching media

Oil allows installations but is outdated in MV switchgear as an insulating material for many reasons such as fire risk and its susceptibility to contamination, from moisture and by-products after switching. High maintenance requirements and costs also has a negative impact on the use of oil as an arc quenching media.



Epoxy resin has been used since the mid-1950s and is a very good insulator that can be used as a construction material. Epoxy resin consists of 80 percent pure sand and 20 percent epoxy with hardener.

Generally, epoxy resin is not aging, however a good design greatly depends on the knowledge of electrical fields. The epoxy can be shaped in such a way that those fields are minimized, resulting in low electrical stress on its surroundings, which can be normal air at atmospheric pressure. It is important to create smooth shapes to avoid too high electrical and mechanical stresses for the conductive parts that are embedded in epoxy insulation.

Air can be considered outdated as an arc-quenching medium due to the relatively bulky volumes needed, sound aspects when operating, and moisture sensitivity.

Modern media: The choice is between SF₆ and vacuum, each with pros and cons but both have very good arc-quenching properties. The discussion sometimes tends to be biased by the preferences of the SF₆ manufacturer who claim the vacuum adepts to be environmentally friendly and put green logos on their switchgear. Traditional manufacturers of SF₆ switchgear started vacuum developments, while vacuum switchgear manufacturers stick to vacuum.

A lot of activities have been set up to keep SF₆ on the market such as ecological studies sponsored by a SF₆ suppliers and SF₆ switchgear manufacturers.

As a result of this push three dedicated IEC standards exist for SF₆, while none exists for vacuum switchgears.

Standard	Year
IEC 60376	1971
IEC 60480	1974
IEC 61634*	1995

In the meantime, the European Parliament and the Council have published a draft regulation for certain fluorinated greenhouse gases inclusive of SF₆ with a legal base “Draft regulation European Parliament: 2003/0189A (COD)”.

**This publication has been replaced by IEC 62271-303:2008*

2 - Switching Devices

- **Circuit-breakers (CB)**

Connect (make) and disconnect (break) all currents within their ratings limits, for all inductive and capacitive loads currents up to the full short circuit current, and this under all fault conditions in the power supply system, such as earth faults, phase opposition...etc.

- **Earthing switches**

To earth isolated circuits.

- **Make-proof earthing switches (earthing switches with making capacity)**

Are used for the safe earthing of circuits, even if voltage is present, in the event that the circuit to be earthed was accidentally not isolated.

- **Surge arresters**

To discharge loads caused by lightning strikes (external overvoltages) or switching operations and earth faults (internal overvoltages). They protect the connected equipment against impermissibly high-voltages.



3 - VCB Features and Technical Data

With reliability as a fundamental goal, **alfanar** has simplified the **alfa A switchgear** design to minimize problems and gain trouble-free performance. Special attention is given to material quality and the use of components with years of proven reliability in **alfanar's** switchgear.

alfa V VCB are user-friendly, more convenient, safer and provide high speed interrupting time (3cycles), adopting the rapid auto-reclosing method, and have a wide range of accessories.



a. High reliability of the operating mechanism

- Separate design of the main circuit from the operating mechanism
- Adopt the toggle link method
- Improve the reliability of electric circuit
- Adopt the rapid auto-reclosing method as a standard option O-0.3s-CO-15s-CO

b. High interrupting performance

- Shortened interrupting time (3cycles)
- Increased rated short circuit withstand characteristics (1sec. to 3sec.)

c. Great operational safety

- Reinforced insulation in the conduct, by adopting the molded housing in each phase
- Built-in device that makes the contacts open first when drawn in and out
- Adopt the tulip-shape connection between the cradle busbar and the VCB

For many decades, customers were faced with the challenge of finding a reliable VCB. **alfanar** provide this VCB to solve this issue for its customers.

The alfa V has a wide range of optional accessories available.

- Key lock
- Padlock of earthing switch
- Button padlock
- Position switch of the earthing switch
- Button cover
- Locking coil of earthing switch
- Position switch (Cell switch)
- Shutter padlock
- Preparatory trip coil (Secondary trip coil)
- MOC (Mechanically operated cell switch)
- Latch checking switch
- TOC (Truck operated cell switch)
- Charge indicator
- Code plate (Miss insertion prevention)
- Position padlock
- Capacitor trip device
- Rectifier

d. Great operational safety

- Small size and light weight
- High performance, reliability, and long life are assured
- Maintains high vacuum
- High-alumina ceramics provide superior mechanical strength and easy degassing
- High speed interruption and short arcing time
- The LS Vacuum Interrupter meets all IEC, ANSI and NEMA performance standards

e. Operating characteristics

In the closed position, normal current flows through the interrupter. When a fault occurs and interruption is required, the contacts are quickly separated. The arc drawn between the surfaces of contacts is rapidly moved around the slotted contact surface by self-induced magnetic effects, preventing gross contact erosion and the formation of hot spot on the surface. The arc burns in an ionized metal vapor which condenses on the surrounding metal shield. At current zero the arc extinguishes and vapor production ceases. The metal vapor plasma is very rapidly dispersed, cooled, recombined, and deionized, and the metal vapor products are quickly condensed so that the contacts withstand the transient recovery voltage.

Technical Data

Type		alfa V	
Rated voltage	kV	17.5	
Rated normal current	A	1250	
Rated frequency	Hz	50 / 60	
Rated short circuit breaking current	kA	up to 31.5	
Rated short-time withstand current	kA/3sec	up to 31.5	
Rated short circuit making current	kA peak	81.9	
Rated breaking time	Cycle	3	
Rated opening time	sec	≤0.04	
No-load closing time	sec	≤0.06	
Withstand voltage	Power frequency	kV/min	38
	Impulse	kV/1.2×50μs	95
Rated Operating sequence		O-0.3s-CO-15s-CO	
Type test	Mechanical		M2 (10,000 times)
	Electrical		E2 (List1)
	Capacitive current switching*		C2
Lifetime	Mechanical	Without maintenance (Time)	20000
		Maintenance (Time)	30000
	Electrical	Without maintenance (Time)	20000
		Maintenance (Time)	30000
Auxiliary switch		14NO,14NC	
Weight	VCB	1250A	130KG
Applied standard		IEC 62271-100	

* Applied cable-charging current switching test

Motor

When the closing spring is charged, the control power of motor is turned off by the built-in limit s/w.

Rated voltage(V)	The peak value of the inrush current (A)	Rated current (A)	Consumption power (W)	Charging time (Sec.)
DC24V	≤25	≤5	≤125	≤5
DC48V	≤15	≤3	≤144	≤5
DC110/125V	≤5	≤1	≤125	≤5
DC220V	≤2.5	≤0.5	≤110	≤5

Note

Range of the normal operating voltage: 85~110%

Closing Coil (C)

The coil is operational only when the power is applied continuously over 45ms. It has a built-in electrically anti-pumping circuit.

Note

Range of the normal operating voltage: 85~110%

Rated voltage	Rated current (A)
DC24V	≤8.8
DC48V	≤4.5
DC110/125V	≤2
DC220V	≤1

Shunt Coil (TC)

When the VCB is 'ON' position, even though the control power of a shunt coil is 'OFF', the VCB maintains the 'ON' position.

Note

Range of the normal operating voltage: 70~110%

Rated voltage	Rated current (A)
DC24V	≤8.8
DC48V	≤4.5
DC110/125V	≤2
DC220V	≤1

Auxiliary Switch

Standard 4a4b / Optional 10a10b

Classification					Contact configuration
Contact Ratings	AC	250V			4a4b 10a10b
		125V			
	DC	250V			
		125V			
		30V			

Note

The contact capacity of the following accessories are the same as that of the Aux. switch. Position switch, Closing spring contact, Charging complete indicating contact, Position switch of the earthing switch, Mechanically operated cell switch, Truck operated cell switch.

Position of the Aux.contact switch

Classification		
VCB	"a" contact	"b"contact
ON	ON	OFF
OFF	OFF	ON

Note

The contact capacity of the following accessories are the same as that of the Aux. switch. Position switch, Closing spring contact, Charging complete indicating contact, Position switch of the earthing switch, Mechanically operated cell switch, Truck operated cell switch.

B - Instrument Transformers IT

Instrument transformers are transformers which convert high currents or voltages into measurable and standardized currents or voltages which are proportional and in-phase to the primary signal. They are intended to supply electrical measuring instruments, meters, relays or other electrical devices.

1. Current Transformer

A current transformer is designed to convert the primary rated current which flows through the primary winding. The secondary winding must generally be short circuited at any time, otherwise dangerous high voltages can occur at the secondary terminals. The secondary connected devices are connected in series.

Current Transformers can be equipped with one or more independent magnetic cores with equal or different characteristics for measuring, metering and/or protective purposes.



Current Transformer Types Indoor ring type current transformer

Important note:

- Accuracy class for measuring CT is the limit of the percentage current error at rated current IN. Generally, current transformers are used for a measuring range of 5 % to 120 % of the rated primary current.
- alfanar can provide switchgear panels with a segregated CT compartment. This design is also type tested by an international independent testing laboratory.

2. Voltage Transformer

Voltage transformers have only one iron core with attached secondary winding (s). If an open delta circuit (da-dn) is necessary, an additional winding can be provided for single pole insulated transformers. It is extremely dangerous to short circuit a voltage transformer. For single pole insulated transformers the end of the primary winding is grounded as “N” inside of the secondary terminal box, and must not be removed during operation.

- Earthed (single-phase) or unearthed (double-phase) indoor transformers in various sizes
- Earthed (single-phase) or unearthed (double-phase) outdoor transformers in various sizes

Important note:

Accuracy class (identification P) for protective CT is the limit of the percentage current error for the rated accuracy limit primary current.

3. CBCT

Core Balance Current Transformers (CBCT's) are employed for providing earth leakage protection in a power system. They are different from normal protective and metering current transformers due to their performance requirement.

Generally, it is sufficient to incorporate insulation monitoring to indicate appearance of earth leakage, and not for disconnection. The operating staff in such cases will be able to take measures to switch the load over to other feeders and switch out the faulted circuits for repairs. An exception to this rule are circuits which supply power to peat pits, ore mines, and similar loads where, in view of safety considerations, the protection system is designed to switch out the circuit in the event of occurrence of earth leakage.

CBCT's are manufactured with one core and one secondary winding. The number of secondary turns does not need to be related to the cable/feeder rated current because no secondary current would flow under normal balanced conditions. This allows the number of secondary turns to be chosen such as to optimize the effective primary pick up current. The choice of ratio should therefore be left to the manufacture to obtain the best possible result.



C - Power System Protection

A power system consists of various electrical components like a generator, transformers, transmission lines, isolators, circuit breakers, busbars, cables, relays, instrument transformers, distribution feeders, and various types of loads. Faults may occur in any part of power system as a short circuit and earth fault. A fault may be single line to ground, double line to ground, line to line, three phase short circuit etc. This results in flow of heavy fault current through the system. Fault level also depends on the fault impedance which depends on the location of fault referred from the source side. To calculate fault level at various points in the power system, fault analysis is necessary.

The protection system operates and isolates the faulty section. The operation of the protection system should be fast and selective i.e. it should isolate only the faulty section in the shortest possible time causing minimum disturbance to the system. Also, if main protection fails to operate, there should be a backup protection for which proper relay co-ordination is necessary. Failure of a protective relay can result in devastating equipment damage and prolonged downtime.

a - Basic Requirements of Protection Systems

The protection system is an extremely important part of the power system as it will operate under abnormal conditions to prevent failure or isolate faults and limits the effects of the faults. Some basic requirements of the protection system are to provide reliability, selectivity, sensitivity and speed of operation.

- **Reliability**

Reliability is the basic requirement of the protection system. The protection system must be ready to function correctly at all the times and under all conditions of the fault and abnormal conditions of the whole power system for which the protection system is designed.

- **Selectivity**

Selectivity is the ability of the protective system to correctly select the part of the system in trouble and disconnect and isolate the faulty part without disturbing the rest of the power system. A well designed and efficient protective system should be selective i.e, it should be able to detect the point at which the fault occurs and operate the circuit breaker nearest to the fault with minimum or no damage to the system.

- **Sensitivity**

A protective system must be sufficiently sensitive so that it will operate reliably when required under the actual condition that produces the least operating tendency. Sensitivity of the protective system refers to the smallest value of the actuating quantity at which the protective system starts operating in relation with the maximum value of the fault current in the protected zone.

- **Speed**

The protective system should disconnect the faulty section as quick as possible. This is desirable to reduce damage, improve power system stability, minimize power supply interruption to consumers. However, too fast of an operation may result in undesired operation during the transient faults.

- **Simplicity**

The protection system should be simply constructed with a good quality of relay, correct design and installation, easy maintenance and operational supervision. As a rule of thumb, the simpler the protective scheme and lesser the number of relays, circuits and contacts it contains, the greater the reliability.

b - Relays

Relays are electrically operated power-switching devices, that do not operate until directed by some external device to open or close. Sensors and relays are used to detect the overcurrent or other abnormal or unacceptable condition and to signal the switching mechanism to operate. The MV circuit breakers are the brute-force switches while the sensors and relays are the brains that direct their functioning.

In switchgear application, the most common sensors are CTs to measure current and PTs to measure voltage. The relays measure sensor output and cause the breaker to operate to protect the system when preset limits are exceeded, hence the name “protective relays.” The availability of a variety of sensors, relays, and circuit breakers permits the design of complete protection systems as simple or as complex as necessary, desirable, and economically feasible.

In most cases of direct feeding from (National Grid), the MV switchgear should be chosen very carefully, specially the relays where the major requirement of SEC is to select the relay matching the upper stream in order to apply a differential protection on the busbar, line and incomers. Therefore, an advantage of using **alfanar** relays is the flexibility of choosing the protection relay based on the situation and load.

Types of Relays

In MV switchgear application, a number of relays can be installed in every single cubical, and each relay has a specific function and assigned task, for example: one relay may be responsible for tripping the breaker while the other is responsible for supervision or monitoring. Listed below are types of relays that are used in MV switchgear assemblies:

1 - Protective Relays

A protective relay is designed to trip when a fault is detected .

Protective relays work in concert with sensing and control devices to accomplish their function. Under normal power system operation, a protective relay remains idle and serves no active function. But when fault or undesirable conditions arises the protective relay must be operated and function correctly to disconnect a faulty section.

Examples of protective relays:

- **Overcurrent Relay**

This relay detects current above normal settings and operates when the current increases beyond the operating value of the relay. Depending upon the time of operation, overcurrent relays can be categorized as instantaneous overcurrent relay, inverse time overcurrent relay, definite time overcurrent relay, inverse definite time overcurrent relay, very inverse overcurrent relay and extremely inverse overcurrent relay.

- **Directional Overcurrent Relay**

This relay responds to excessive current flow in a particular direction in the power system. The relay typically consists of two elements. One is a directional element, which determines the direction of current flow with respect to a voltage reference. When this current flow is in the predetermined trip direction, this directional element enables (“turns on”) the other element, which is a standard overcurrent relay. Because these relays are designed to operate on fault currents, the directional unit is made so that it operates best on a highly lagging current, which is typical of faults in power systems.

Directional overcurrent relays are normally used on incoming line circuit breakers on buses which have two or more sources. They are connected to trip an incoming line breaker for fault current flow back into the source, so that a fault on one source is not fed by the other sources.



- **Differential Relay**

A differential relay is defined as the relay that operates when the difference of two or more identical electrical quantities exceeds a predetermined amount. The differential relay works on the principle of comparison of two or more similar electrical quantities. For example, consider the comparison of the current entering a protected line and the current leaving it. If the current entering the protected line is more than the current leaving it, then the extra current must flow in the fault. The difference between the two electrical quantities can operate a relay to isolate the circuit.

The differential protection principle is widely employed for the protection of generators, transformers, feeders, and busbars.

2 - Auxiliary Relays

Auxiliary relays operate in response to opening and closing of its operating circuit to assist another relay or device in performance of a function. For example, a measuring relay, for the purpose of providing higher rated contacts or introducing a time delay.

The auxiliary relays are used for all kinds of control and protection circuits in power stations and industrial installations, where a high degree of reliability and a high contact rating are stipulated, with minimal internal consumption. Acting as an instantaneous switching element, it provides galvanic separation and contact multiplication in tripping and signaling circuits of protective relays.

Examples of auxiliary relays in MV Switchgear assemblies:

- **Tripping Relays**

1) Self-Reset Relay

The self-reset relay is a high speed trip auxiliary relay. When the fault occurs, the coil is energized and the contact operates to trip the circuit breaker. The self-reset relay is used where auto reclosing is required to close the circuit breaker whenever a temporary fault occurs.

2) Lockout Relays

The lockout relay is a high speed trip auxiliary relay, a lockout means once the coil is energized the contact will be operated and will never come to normal position until it is reset by hand or electrically. Therefore, it is used by many utilities in electrical power transmission substations to trip and hold out of service a protection zone on the occurrence of a relay operation that requires inspection and/or repair before the zone may be safely placed back in service. Lockout relays ensure that all the critical circuits are isolated and remain isolated as long as the fault is not cleared.

- **Monitoring Relays**

- 1) DC Supervision Relay**

This type of relay is used to supervise the DC supply for all MV switchgear functional units. The relay coil terminals are connected to the DC supply which is to be monitored. In case the DC auxiliary supply is available, the relay's 'NO' contact closes and healthy status is indicated through a 'WHITE' flag. In the absence of the DC auxiliary supply, an alarm signal is generated and a 'RED' flag is indicated .

- 2) Trip Circuit Supervision Relay**

This supervision relay is designed for the supervision of trip circuits and other important control and monitoring circuits. For example, in a protection system the trip circuit of the circuit breaker is crucial, if an interruption occurs in the trip circuit a possible network fault will not be disconnected and would have to be cleared by another protection upstream in the power system. The trip circuit supervision relay is intended for a continuous supervision of circuit breaker's trip circuit and to give an alarm for loss of auxiliary supply, faults on the trip-coil or its wires independent of the breaker position, faults on the breaker auxiliary contacts and faults in the supervision relay itself.

- 3) VT Fuse Supervision Relay**

The voltage transformer supervision feature is used to detect failure of the AC voltage inputs to the relay. This may be caused by internal voltage transformer faults, overloading, or faults on the interconnecting wiring to relays. This usually results in one or more VT fuses blowing. Following a failure of the AC voltage input there would be a misrepresentation of the phase voltages on the power system as measured by the relay, which may result in malfunction.

- 4) CT Circuit Supervision Relay**

The current transformer supervision feature is used to detect failure of one or more of the AC phase current inputs to the relay. Failure of a phase CT or an open circuit of the interconnecting wiring can result in incorrect operation of any current operated element. Additionally, interruption in the AC current circuits risks dangerous CT secondary voltages being generated.

- **Contacts Multiplication Relays**

Contacts multiplication relays are used to get extra 'NO' and 'NC' contacts that can be used somewhere else as a status indication, interlocks and other switching operations.

D - High Speed Earthing Switch

IEC air-insulated switch disconnectors are suitable for cable sectionalizer, transformer, motor and capacitor bank switching, in secondary distribution substations for supplying lines, transformers and ring networks. Earthing switch is used to connect the cables or busbar to the earth for safety during maintenance and other works to be executed on the switchgear. It has a fast acting mechanism independent to the operator, interlocking provision and voltage capacitive divider insulators. The switch has a making capacity and it complies with the applicable IEC standard.

The task of an earthing switch is to earth de-energised parts of the switchgear and, in the case of multi-pole earthing switches, to short circuit them at the same time.

10 - Type Test

alfa A switchgear has undergone all the tests required by the international (IEC) Standards. In addition, tests were carried out on switchgear units considered most sensitive to the effects of the tests and therefore the results were extended across the whole range.

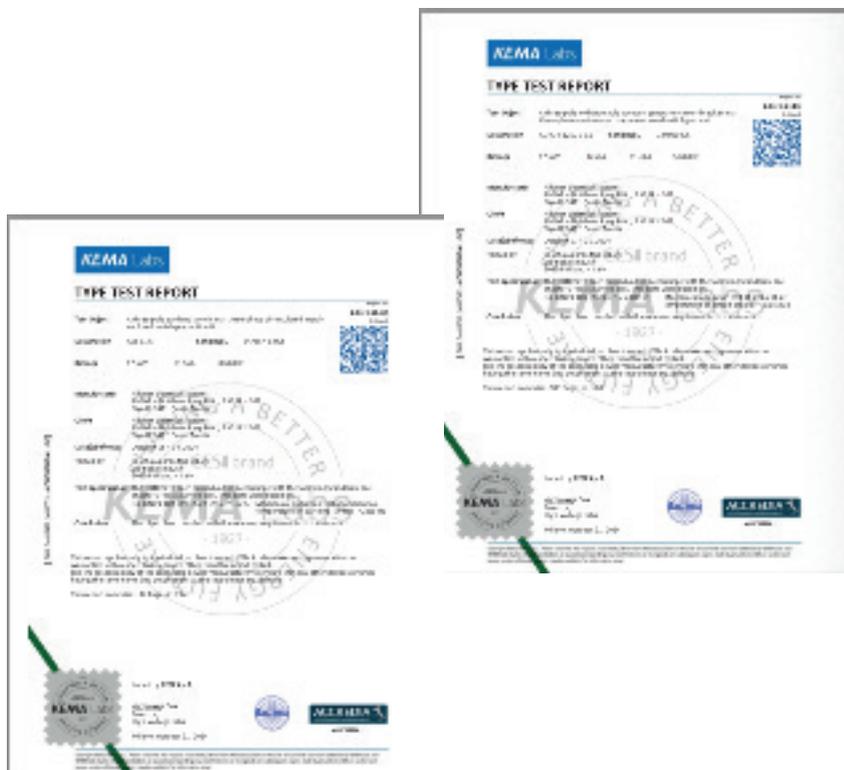
In addition, tests were carried out on switchgear units considered most sensitive to the effects of the tests and therefore the results were extended across the whole range.

Each switchgear unit is subjected to routine tests in the factory before delivery.

These tests are intended to provide a functional check of the switchgear based on the specific characteristics of each installation.

IEC type tests

- Short-time and peak withstand current
- Temperature rise
- Internal arc capability
- Dielectric test
- Making and breaking capacity of circuit-breaker and contactors
- Earthing switch making capacity
- Mechanical operations of circuit-breaker and earthing switch
- IP protection degree
- Back to back capacitive switching, mechanical endurance.



Description of IEC type tests

- **Short-time and peak withstand current**

The test shows that the main power and the earthing circuits resist the stresses caused by the passage of the short circuit current without any damage. Both the earthing system of the withdrawable circuit-breaker and the earthing busbar of the switchgear are subjected to the test.

The mechanical and electrical properties of the main busbar system and the top and bottom branch connections remain unchanged even in the case of a short circuit.

- **Temperature rise**

The temperature rise test is carried out at the rated current value of the switchgear unit and showing that the temperature does not become excessive in any part of the switchgear unit. During the test, both the switchgear and the circuit-breaker or contactor it may be fitted with are checked.

- **Internal arc capability**

Internal arc testing verifies the potential risk to a person standing within a few feet of switchgear during an arc flash. To this end, the test is carried out in a simulated room with indicators that mimic human skin to assess the danger of burns from escaping hot gases. According to the latest standard – IEC 62271-200 (2011) – the position and arrangement of these indicators is determined by who will be able to access the switchgear in use. This test replicates the effect of protective clothing that will be worn by authorized personnel but not by the general public.

- **Dielectric test**

These tests verify that the switchgear has sufficient capability to withstand the lightning impulse and the power frequency voltage. The power frequency withstand voltage test is carried out as a type test, but it is also a routine test on every switchgear unit manufactured.

- **Circuit-breaker making and breaking capacity**

The circuit-breaker or contactor is subjected to the rated current and short circuit current breaking tests. It is also subjected to the opening and closing of capacitive and inductive loads, capacitor banks and/or cable lines.

- **Earthing switch making capacity**

The earthing switch of the **alfa12 switchgear** can be closed under short circuit. The earthing switch is normally interlocked to avoid being operated on circuits which are still live, however, should this occur, personnel safety would be fully safeguarded.

- **Mechanical operations**

The mechanical endurance tests conducted on all the operating parts ensures the reliability of the apparatus. General experience in the electro-technical sector shows that mechanical faults are one of the most common causes of a fault in an installation. The circuit breaker is tested by carrying out a higher number of operations than those which are normally carried out by installations in the field. Furthermore, the switchgear components are part of a quality control program and samples are regularly taken from the production lines and subjected to mechanical life tests to verify that the quality is identical to that of the components subjected to the type tests.

- **IP protection degree**

The IP protection degree is the resistance offered by the **alfa A** against penetration of solid objects and liquids. This degree of resistance is indicated by the prefix IP followed by two characters (i.e. IP4X), where the first number identifies the degree of protection against the entrance of solid objects, and the second one is related to liquids.

11 – Order Form

Substation Name: ; Date: / /

I. Basic Specifications:

For a technical proposal for withdrawable metal Enclosed switchgear substation, please answer the following questions:

1. Surrounding Temperature*: ; 2. Altitude*:.....
3. Service Voltage [kV]*:..... ; 4. Main Busbar Current Rating [A]*:
5. Short Circuit Level [kA/s]*:
6. Lightning Impulse Voltage [kV]: ; 7. Power Frequency Dielectric Voltage [kV]:
8. Enclosure Protection [IP] ; Auxiliary Circuit Voltage [VDC]*:

II. Substation Arrangement Requirements:

For substation configuration, please provide the relevant drawings or answer the following questions:

1. Type of arrangement:
 - a. Single Bus – Single Section
 - b. Single Bus-Multi-Bus Sections
 - C. Other:.....
2. Quantity of Cubicles:

Incoming Feeders: ; Outgoing Feeders: ; Bus Coupler Panels :
3. Outgoing Feeder details with load types:

Motor Feeders:..... ; Transformer Feeders:..... ; Distribution Feeders:.....

Capacitor Bank Feeders : ; Other :
4. Incoming Feeders fed by :
5. Tick the following features if requested:

Busbar Earthing Switch Busbar Voltage Transforme Surge Arrester on Feeders

Current Rating Table:

Sr.	Panel Type	Current Rating					
		630A	1250A				
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							



Scan the QR to download the catalogue

July_2025