Power System Fault Analysis and Protection Coordination Training Course

16 - 20 Nov 2026

Madrid

5900 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ERE6667_94682

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of electrical power system fault analysis and protection coordination, essential for ensuring the safety, reliability, and stability of modern electrical grids. Participants will delve into the fundamental principles of fault phenomena, from symmetrical and asymmetrical fault calculations to the application of symmetrical components. The curriculum, designed by experts at BIG BEN Training Center, bridges theoretical knowledge with practical application, drawing on established industry standards and practices. We will reference the foundational work of renowned experts like J. Lewis Blackburn, whose text "Protective Relaying: Principles and Applications" remains a cornerstone in the field. This training moves beyond basic concepts to cover the intricacies of setting and coordinating protective devices such as relays, fuses, and circuit breakers. The goal is to equip professionals with the skills to design robust protection schemes that can effectively isolate faults, minimize equipment damage, and prevent widespread outages, thereby enhancing overall power system performance and resilience in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Electrical Engineers.
- Protection and Control Engineers.
- Substation Engineers.
- Power System Planners and Designers.
- Operations and Maintenance Personnel.
- Commissioning Engineers.
- Industrial and Utility Engineers.
- Electrical Supervisors and Technicians.
- Consultants involved in power system studies.
- Project Engineers managing electrical infrastructure.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Electric Power Generation Utilities.
- Transmission and Distribution Network Operators.
- Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Industries.
- Renewable Energy Sector (Solar and Wind Farms).
- Heavy Manufacturing and Industrial Plants.
- Mining and Minerals Processing.
- Transportation and Railway Electrification.
- Data Centers and Critical Infrastructure Facilities.
- Governmental bodies and regulatory agencies.
- Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) companies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Engineering and Design.
- Operations and Maintenance.
- Planning and Development.
- Asset Management.
- Technical Services.
- Protection and Control.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE).
- Project Management.
- Grid Operations and Control Centers.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Perform manual calculations for various types of short-circuit faults.
- Apply the per-unit system and symmetrical components for unbalanced fault analysis.
- Understand the operating principles of various protective relays and instrument transformers.
- Select appropriate protective devices based on system requirements and fault levels.
- Develop and interpret Time-Current Characteristic (TCC) curves for coordination.
- Execute protection coordination studies for radial and looped distribution systems.
- Implement protection schemes for transformers, generators, motors, and transmission lines.
- Analyze system stability and the impact of faults on grid performance.
- Evaluate modern protection philosophies, including digital and numerical relaying.
- Contribute effectively to arc flash hazard analysis and mitigation strategies.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a deep and practical understanding of power system protection. This course utilizes a blended learning approach that combines expert-led instructional sessions with highly interactive and participatory activities. Theoretical concepts are presented through clear and concise lectures, supported by detailed visual aids and real-world examples. To reinforce learning, participants will engage in hands-on workshops and problem-solving sessions, where they can apply fault calculation techniques and coordination principles to practical scenarios. Collaborative group discussions and case study analyses will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry experiences. The course emphasizes a practical, results-oriented approach, ensuring that delegates can immediately apply the acquired knowledge to their professional roles. Our instructors facilitate a dynamic learning environment, providing continuous feedback and guidance to ensure all participants achieve the course objectives and master the required skills for effective fault analysis and protection design.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Fundamentals of Power System Protection

- Introduction to power system protection principles.
- Components of a power system and their characteristics.
- Sources and types of electrical faults (short circuits, open circuits).
- Consequences of faults on system stability and equipment.
- The concept of protection zones and selectivity.
- Introduction to instrument transformers (CTs and VTs).
- Basic principles of fuses and circuit breakers.

Unit Two: Fault Analysis and Calculation

- Review of basic circuit theory and phasor diagrams.
- The per-unit system and its application in power systems.
- Modeling of power system components for fault studies.
- Symmetrical three-phase fault calculations.
- The concept of symmetrical components for unbalanced faults.
- Analysis of single line-to-ground (SLG) faults.
- Analysis of line-to-line (LL) and double line-to-ground (LLG) faults.

Unit Three: Protective Relays and Overcurrent Protection

- Classification and operating principles of protective relays.
- Electromechanical, static, and numerical (digital) relays.
- Introduction to IEC 61850 standard for substation automation.
- Principles of overcurrent protection (instantaneous and time-delayed).
- Understanding inverse definite minimum time (IDMT) relay characteristics.
- Directional and non-directional overcurrent relays.
- Coordination of overcurrent relays using Time-Current Curves (TCCs).

Unit Four: Protection Coordination and System Applications

- Coordination between fuses, reclosers, and sectionalizers.
- Coordination between relays and downstream devices.
- Transformer protection schemes (overcurrent, differential, Buchholz).
- Generator protection principles (stator, rotor, and system backup).
- Motor protection fundamentals (overload, short circuit, starting).
- Busbar protection schemes and their importance.
- Capacitor bank protection strategies.

Unit Five: Advanced Protection Schemes and System Stability

- Principles of distance (impedance) protection for transmission lines.
- Fundamentals of differential protection for lines, buses, and transformers.
- Introduction to power system stability (transient and steady-state).
- The role of protection systems in maintaining grid stability.
- Introduction to arc flash hazard analysis and mitigation.
- Modern trends in protection, including digital substations and wide-area monitoring.
- Review of case studies involving major power system failures and lessons learned.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As power grids integrate more intermittent renewable sources and distributed energy resources, how must traditional fault analysis and protection coordination philosophies evolve to maintain system stability and reliability?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by providing a holistic and deeply practical understanding of power system protection that transcends mere theoretical instruction. While many programs focus on isolated concepts, our curriculum is meticulously structured to build knowledge from foundational principles to advanced, real-world applications. We emphasize the "why" behind protection philosophies, not just the "how" of calculations. Participants will explore the intricate relationships between fault types, equipment behavior, and protection scheme design, enabling them to make informed engineering judgments. The course content is continuously updated to reflect modern challenges, such as the integration of renewable energy and the advent of digital substations, ensuring its relevance in today's rapidly evolving industry. By integrating case studies of actual system failures and encouraging critical thinking through complex problem-solving exercises, we cultivate a level of analytical skill and diagnostic capability that empowers participants to design, implement, and manage protection systems that are not only effective but also robust and resilient for the future.