Advanced Digital Protection and Power System Reliability Training Course



19 - 23 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ERE6746_265510

Course Introduction / Overview:

The "Advanced Digital Protection and Power System Reliability" training course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is a detailed program for professionals in the electrical power sector. It addresses the critical role of digital protection systems in ensuring the reliability and security of modern power grids. This course explores the evolution from electromechanical relays to sophisticated microprocessor-based systems. It's a field where the book "Digital Protection for Power Systems" by Allan T. Johns and Salman K. Salman is a foundational text, providing a solid theoretical background. Participants will delve into the principles of digital relaying, focusing on how these devices are used to detect and isolate faults quickly and accurately. The curriculum covers a range of essential topics, including the use of advanced algorithms for fault detection, the application of digital relays for protecting transmission lines, transformers, and generators, and the integration of these systems into a wider grid automation framework. We will also explore the critical link between protection and system reliability, examining how modern protection schemes can enhance grid performance and prevent widespread outages. The course emphasizes practical applications and the latest trends, such as adaptive protection and the role of IEC 61850 communication standards. This comprehensive training gives participants the expertise needed to manage, analyze, and troubleshoot digital protection systems to ensure the continuous and reliable operation of power systems.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Power system protection engineers.
- Substation design engineers.
- Electric utility and grid operators.
- Maintenance and commissioning technicians.
- Technical managers in the power sector.
- Reliability engineers.
- Researchers and academics in electrical engineering.
- Government agencies and regulatory personnel.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Electric utilities and transmission companies.
- Power generation and distribution.
- Heavy industries with complex electrical systems.
- Energy consulting firms.
- Government agencies and regulatory bodies.
- Manufacturing of electrical equipment.
- Renewable energy plants.
- Oil and gas industry.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Protection and control departments.
- System operations and planning.
- Substation engineering.
- Maintenance and reliability teams.
- Asset management departments.
- Design and engineering departments.
- Research and development teams.
- Technical services departments.

Course Offerings:

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

- Master the principles of advanced digital protection.
- Analyze and apply different protection algorithms.
- Design and coordinate protective relay settings for power systems.
- Understand and apply IEC 61850 communication standards.
- Troubleshoot and diagnose faults using digital relay data.
- Assess and improve the reliability of power system components.
- Develop and implement maintenance strategies for digital protection systems.
- Analyze the impact of distributed generation on protection schemes.
- Understand the role of digital relays in smart grids.
- Ensure the secure and reliable operation of modern electrical networks.

Course Methodology:

This training course uses an interactive and hands-on methodology to teach the principles of advanced digital protection and power system reliability. The program combines theoretical sessions with a strong focus on practical application through case studies and simulations. Participants will work through real-world scenarios, such as analyzing fault data from a digital relay or coordinating the protection settings for a complex substation. The training will use specialized software tools to simulate power system faults and demonstrate the performance of various protection schemes. These interactive sessions allow participants to gain practical experience in a safe, controlled environment. We will also conduct group exercises and discussions, encouraging collaboration and the sharing of professional experiences. The curriculum includes detailed reviews of industry standards and best practices, ensuring that participants' skills are aligned with current professional requirements. This comprehensive approach, a hallmark of BIG BEN Training Center, ensures participants not only learn the concepts but also develop the confidence and practical skills needed to design, implement, and maintain advanced digital protection systems in their daily work.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Fundamentals of Digital Relaying and Protection

- Evolution from electromechanical to digital relays.
- Principles of microprocessor-based protection.
- Advanced protection algorithms for fault detection.
- Digital relay hardware and software architecture.
- Data acquisition and signal processing.
- Digital communication protocols, including IEC 61850.
- Cybersecurity in digital protection systems.

Unit Two: Protection of Transmission Lines and Substation Busbars

- Principles of transmission line protection.
- Distance protection and its application.
- Line differential protection schemes.
- Busbar protection methods.
- High impedance and low impedance bus protection.
- Advanced features of digital transmission line relays.
- Case studies on transmission line and busbar faults.

Unit Three: Generator and Transformer Protection

- Protection schemes for power transformers.
- Transformer differential protection.
- Inrush current and over-excitation protection.
- Generator protection fundamentals.
- Stator and rotor fault protection.
- Loss of excitation and out-of-step protection.
- Digital relay applications for generators and transformers.

Unit Four: Power System Reliability and Maintenance

- Introduction to power system reliability.
- Reliability indices and their calculation.
- Failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA).
- Reliability-centered maintenance (RCM) for protection systems.
- Impact of protection system failure on grid reliability.
- Diagnostic and self-testing features of digital relays.
- Practical maintenance and testing procedures.

Unit Five: Trends and Advanced Topics in Protection

- Adaptive protection schemes.
- Wide-area protection and control (WAPC).
- Protection for distributed energy resources (DER).
- Microgrid protection challenges and solutions.
- Synchro phasor technology and its application.
- Fault location and data analysis.
- Future of digital protection and reliability.

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:

How will the continued proliferation of distributed energy resources and the increasing complexity of smart grids fundamentally alter the principles of protection coordination and the design of digital protection schemes?

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

This training course stands out by providing an in-depth and modern perspective on power system protection that goes beyond traditional relaying concepts. While other courses may focus on basic principles, this program delves into the advanced world of digital protection, a critical component of modern grids. The curriculum is uniquely designed to connect the technical aspects of digital protection with the broader, and often overlooked, topic of power system reliability. Participants will not only learn how digital relays work but will also understand their integral role in enhancing grid security and preventing major failures. The course features an emphasis on practical application, using real-world case studies and simulations to give professionals the skills to diagnose, analyze, and solve complex protection problems. We also explore the latest industry trends, such as the impact of renewable energy integration and the use of IEC 61850, ensuring the knowledge gained is current and relevant. This blend of advanced theory, practical application, and a focus on reliability gives participants a distinct advantage, equipping them to manage and secure the next generation of electrical power systems.