



# Complete Site Testing



Prepared by Tom Lawton, TESCO  
The Eastern Specialty Company

*For North Carolina Electric Meter School  
Management  
Wednesday 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.*

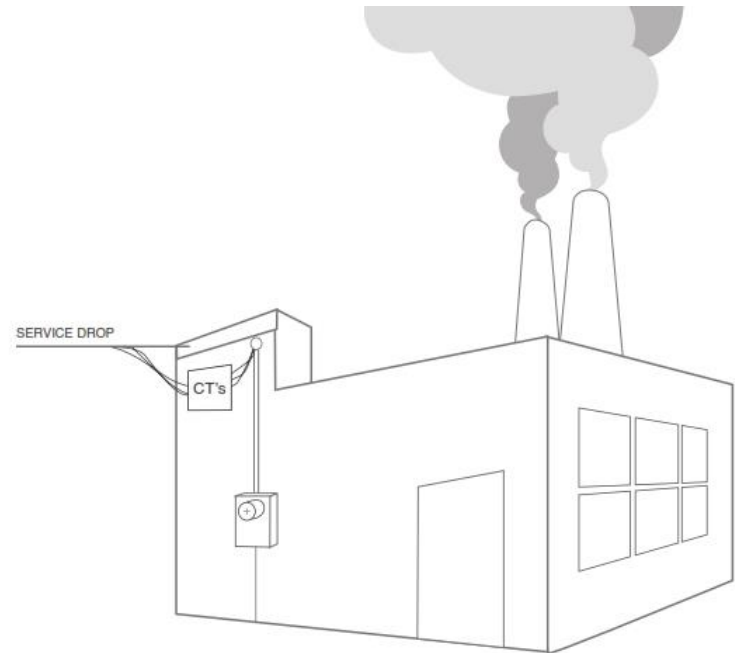
# Topics we will be covering

- Transformer Rated Metering & Forms
- Importance of CT Testing
- Field Testing & Site Verification
- Meter Accuracy Testing
- Meter Accuracy Testing in the Field
- CT Ratio Tests
- Phantom Load, Demagnetization and Admittance Testing
- Harmonics determination and effects



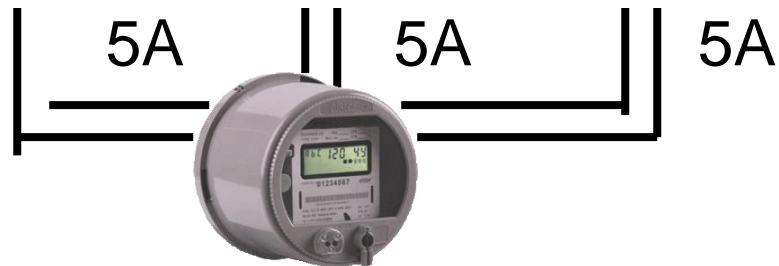
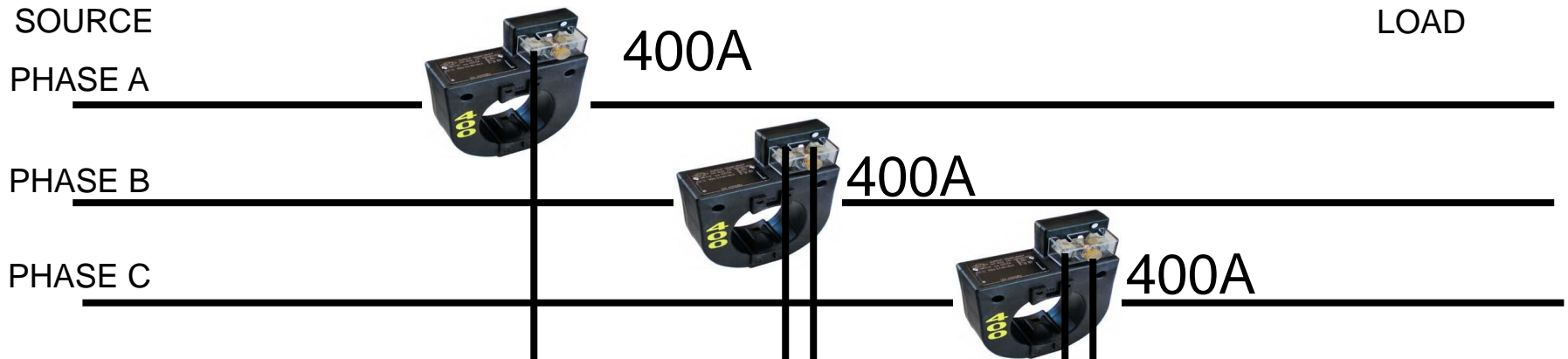
# Transformer Rated Metering

- Meter measures scaled down representation of the load.
- Scaling is accomplished by the use of external current transformers (CTs) and sometimes voltage transformers or PTs).
- The meter is NOT part of the circuit
- When the meter is removed from the socket, power to the customer is not effected.



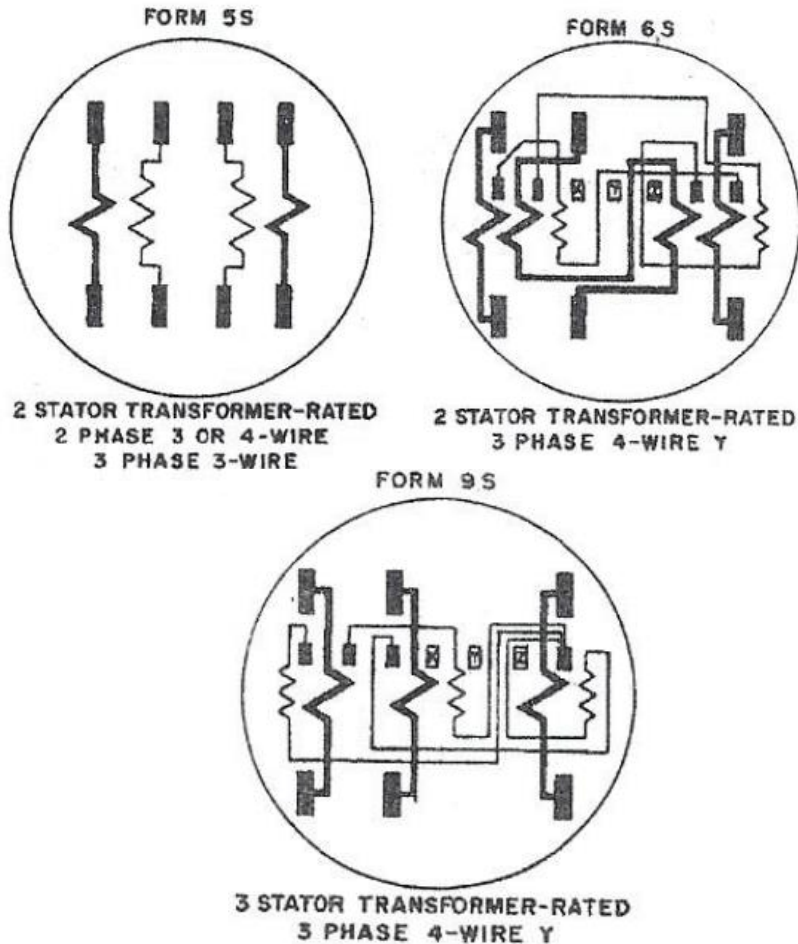
# The Basic Components

## 9S Meter Installation with 400:5 CT's



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# Typical Meter Connections



Typical Connections for 3 Phase  
Common Transformer  
(Instrument) Rated Meter  
Forms

Examples :

Form 5s Class 20

Form 6S Class 20

Form 9s Class 20

# The Importance of CT Testing in the Field

- One transformer in three wired backwards will give the customer a bill of  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> the actual bill.
- One broken wire to a single transformer will give the customer a bill of  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> the actual bill
- One dual ratio transformer inappropriately marked in the billing system as 400:5 instead of 800:5 provides a bill that is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the actual bill. And the inverse will give a bill double of what should have been sent. Both are lose-lose situations for the utility.



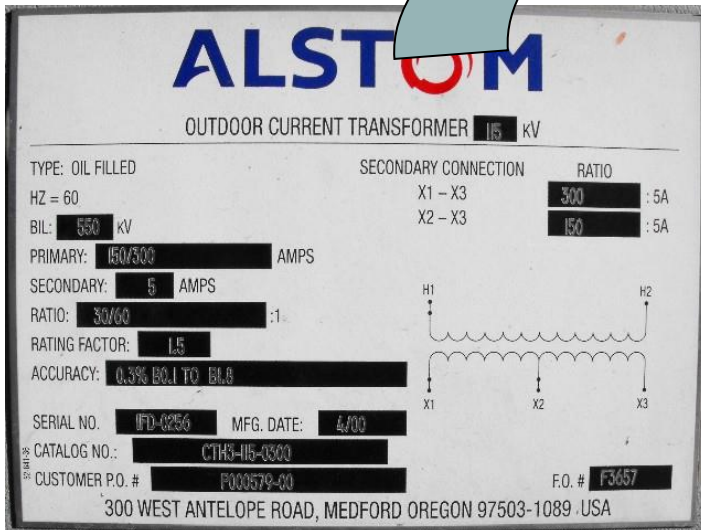
# The Importance of CT Testing in the Field (continued)

- Cross Phasing (wiring errors)
- Loose or Corroded Connections
- CT Mounted Backwards
- CT's with Shorted Turns
- Wrong Selection of Dual Ratio CT
- Detect Magnetized CT's
- Burden Failure in Secondary Circuit
- Open or Shorted Secondary
- Mislabeled CT's
- Ensures all Shorting Blocks have been Removed



# Fundamentals of Polyphase Field Meter Testing and Site Verification

## Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop



Example Burden Spec:  
**0.3% @ B0.1, B0.2, B0.5**  
or

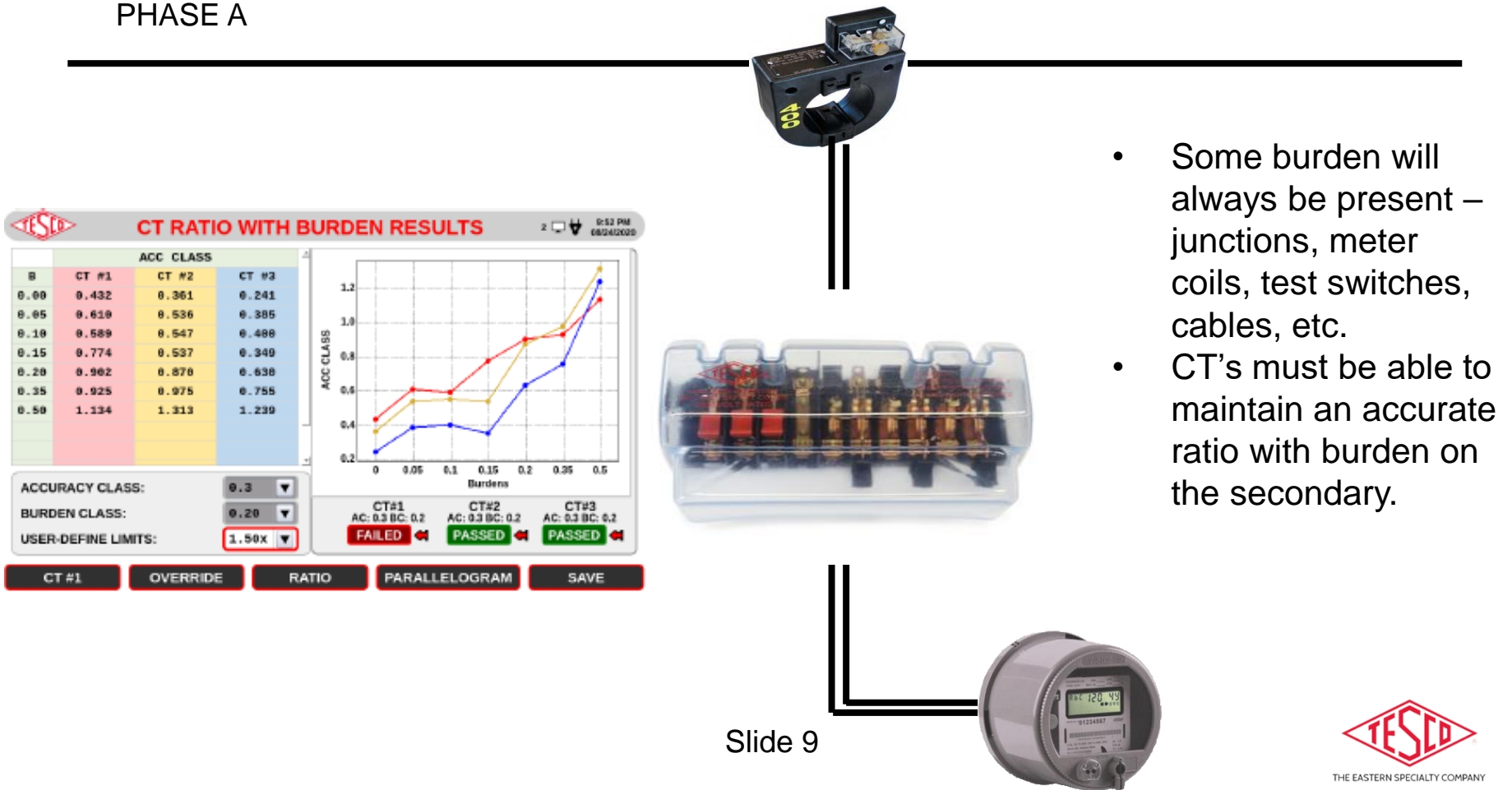
There should be less than the 0.3% change in secondary current from initial ("0" burden) reading, when up to 0.5 Ohms of burden is applied



# Fundamentals of Polyphase Field Meter Testing and Site Verification

## Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop

PHASE A

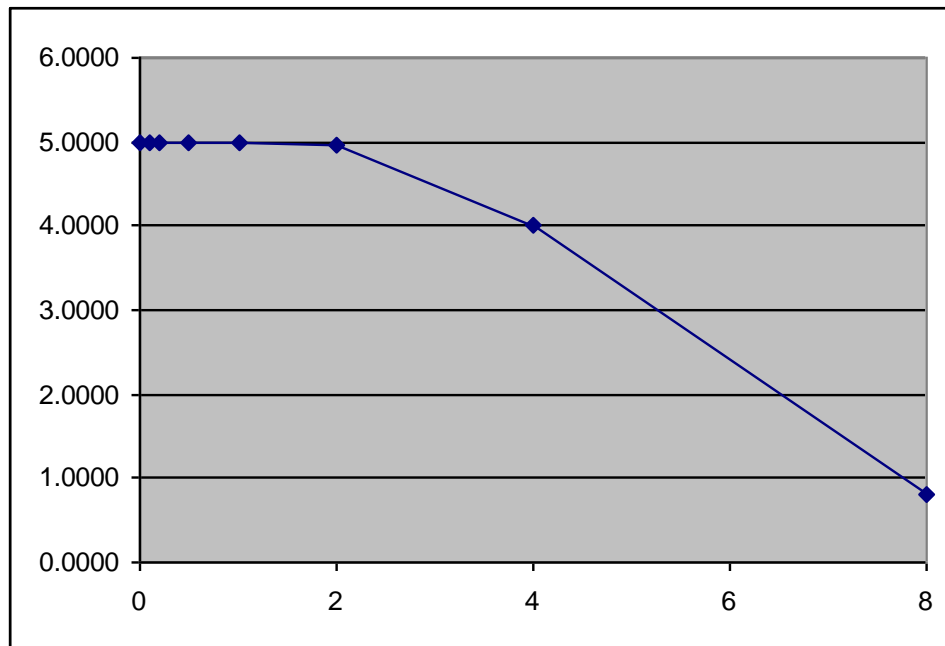


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# Fundamentals of Polyphase Field Meter Testing and Site Verification

Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop

0.3% @ B0.1, B0.2, B0.5

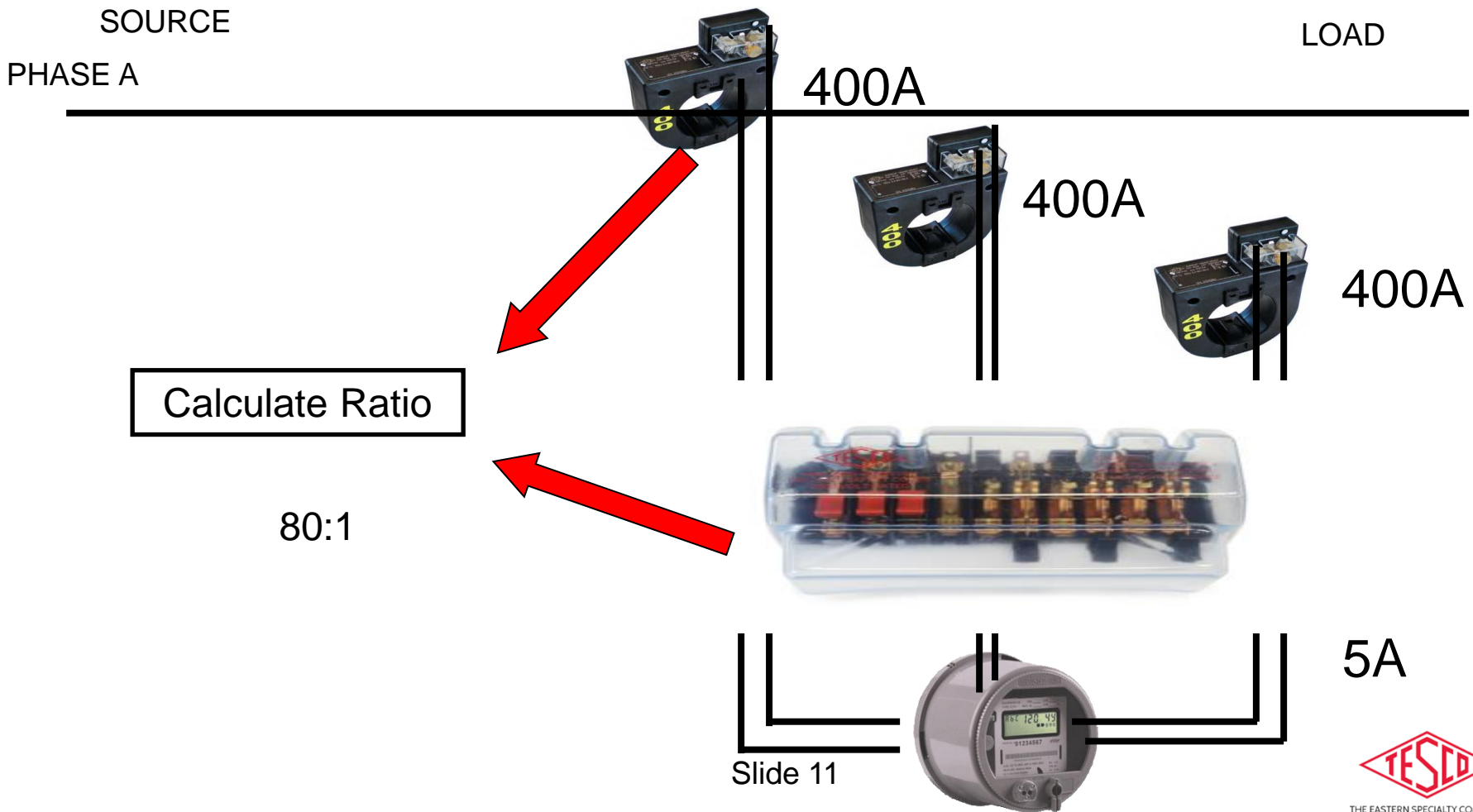


Initial Reading = 5Amps  
 $0.3\% \times 5A = 0.015A$   
 $5A - 0.015 = 4.985A$

Burden	Reading
0	5.0000
0.1	4.9999
0.2	4.9950
0.5	4.9900
1	4.9800
2	4.9500
4	4.0000
8	0.8000

# Fundamentals of Polyphase Field Meter Testing and Site Verification

Ratio of Primary Current to Secondary Current



# Testing at Transformer Rated Sites

- ✓ Safety walk around site
- ✓ Check PPE
- ✓ Check test switch
- ✓ Tighten any loose connections
- ✓ Check primary cabinet
- ✓ Check connections
- ✓ Thermal scan
- ✓ Connect field tester



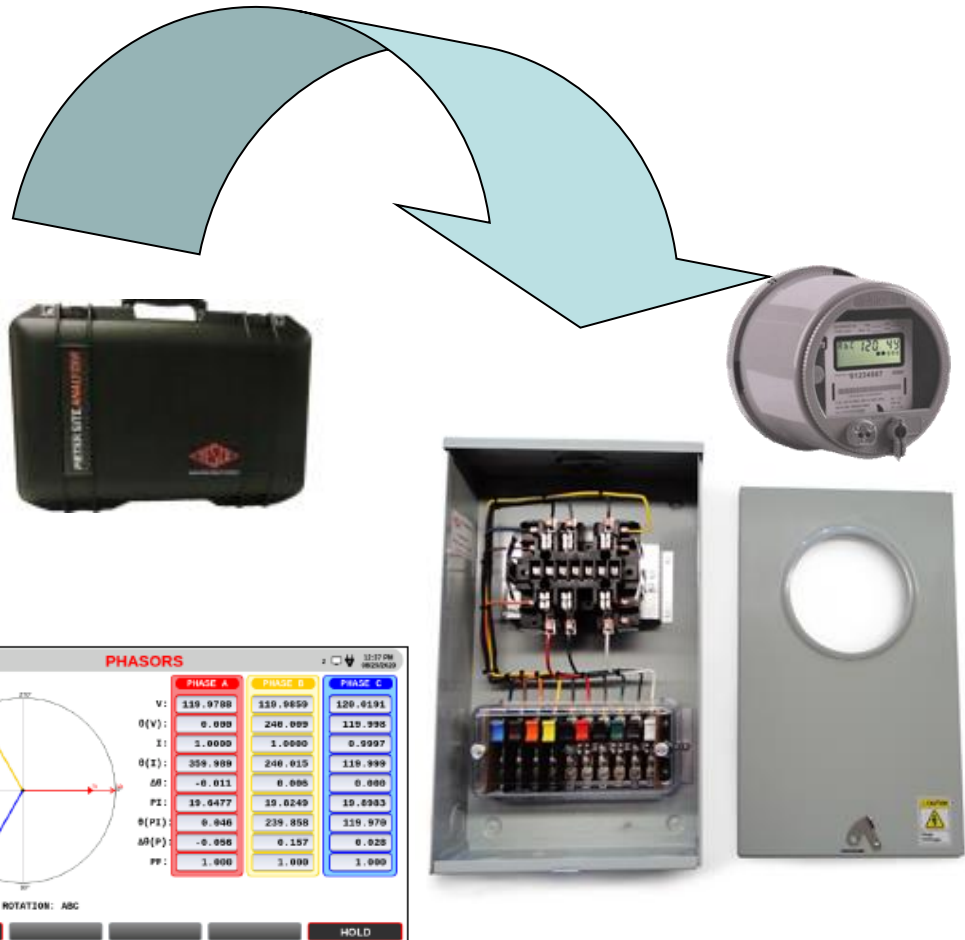
# Meter Accuracy Testing

## Meter Accuracy Testing Customer Load

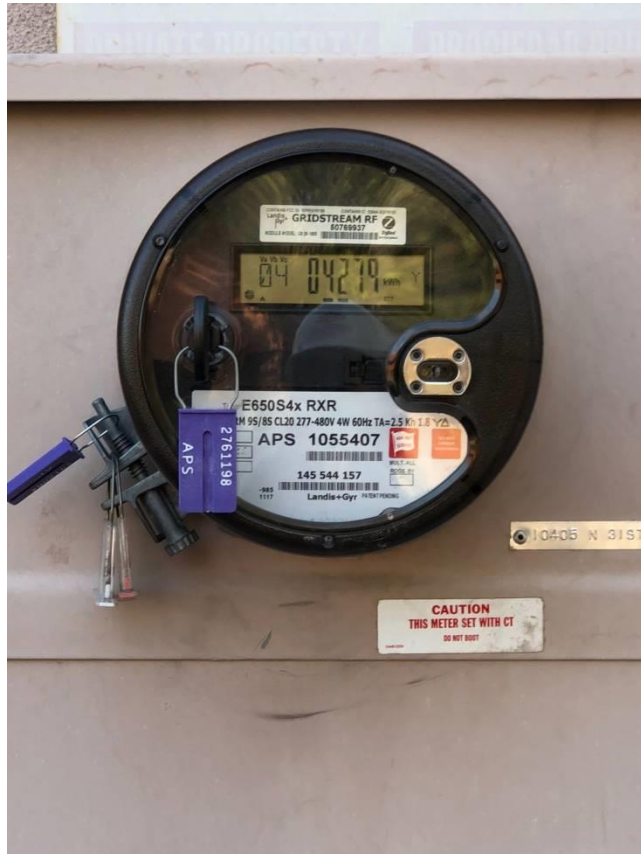
- ✓ Customer Load
- ✓ Customer Billing
- ✓ Customer Conditions

## Meter Accuracy Testing Phantom Load

- ✓ Full Load
- ✓ Light Load
- ✓ Power Factor



# Meter Accuracy Testing



- ✓ Meter Accuracy Test using IR Pulse Detection
- ✓ Make connections from Field Tester to Meter Form
- ✓ Connect IR Pulse Detector to meter output
- ✓ Check pulse indicator
- ✓ Pulse Align if necessary

# Meter Accuracy Testing

**ACCURACY TEST**

**MANUAL METER TEST** 1 7:38 PM 03/13/2020

**UTILITY METER TO TEST**

FORM: 95 Kh: 1.80 SERVICE: 4-Wire, Wye

TA: 2.5 PULSES PER REV: 1 SERIAL NO:

**SELECT TEST LOADS**  
(SHORTCUT: PRESS THE EQUIVALENT NUMBER)

☒ 1-CL (CUSTOMER LOAD)  
☐ 2-FL (TA)  
☐ 3-LL (10%TA)  
☐ 4-PF (TA @ 0.5PF LAG)  
☐ 5-ADV (ADVANCE SETUP)

**TEST TYPE**

☒ ACCURACY ☐ TIMED RUN ☐ TIMED REG ☐ DEMAND ☐ ENERGY

	PULSES	WEIGHT	ITR
CL:	1	1	1
FL:	0	0	0
LL:	0	0	0
PF:	0	0	0
ADV:	0	0	0

TOLERANCE: 0.50%  
PASS OR FAIL CRITERIA

WARM-UP TIME: 00:00:00  
(hh:mm:ss) NOTE: ONLY RUNS BEFORE THE FIRST TEST.

NEW ADV SETUP PULSE ALIGN START

**METER TEST RESULTS** 12:42 PM 09/30/2020

**TEST PARAMETERS**

TAG: ITERATION: TEST STATUS: **TEST FINISHED**

PULSES: PRESET: ACTUAL: REMAINING: WHrs:

**TEST RESULTS**

TEST	ITR	TAG	WHrs	%ERROR	REG	P/F	W	Va
0	1	CL ACC	1.798	0.12	100.11	PASS		285.40
0	AVE		1.798	0.12	100.12	PASS	1.00	285.40
ALL	WAVG			0.12	100.12	PASS		

SAVE

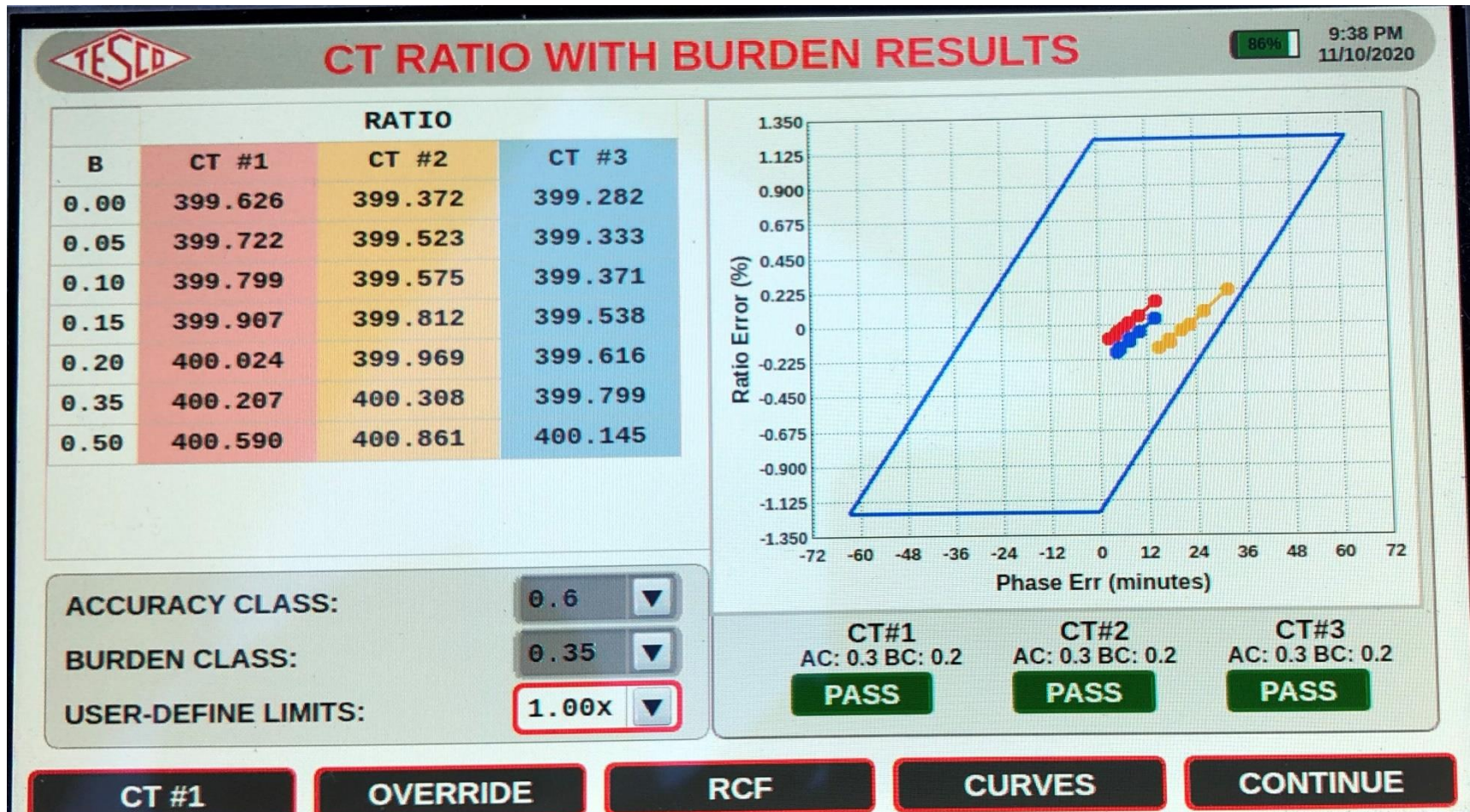


# Customer CT Ratio Test with Burden



- ✓ Make Connections from Field Tester to Primary current phases
- ✓ Make connections from Field Tester to Secondary test switch
- ✓ Connect IR Pulse Detector to meter output

# CT Ratio Testing with Burden Added





# Phantom Load Testing



- ✓ Determine the TA ( Test Amps) from Meter Faceplate
- ✓ Ensure Safety shorting switch and test jack have been disengaged
- ✓ Make connections from Field Tester to Meter Form using jumper EZ Clips.
- ✓ Connect IR Pulse Detector to meter output
- ✓ Check pulse inductor
- ✓ Pulse Align if necessary

# Phantom Load Testing

**TESCO METER TEST RESULTS** 1:01 PM 09/30/2020

**TEST PARAMETERS**

TAG:  ITERATION:  TEST STATUS: **TEST FINISHED**

PULSES: PRESET:  ACTUAL:  REMAINING:  WHrs:

**TEST RESULTS**

TEST	ITR	TAG	WHrs	%ERROR	REG	P/F	W	Va
0	1	FL ACC	8.987	0.15	100.14	PASS		283.60
0	AVE		8.987	0.15	100.15	PASS	1.00	283.60
1	1	LL ACC	-0.084	2052.60	2152.59			
1	AVE		-0.084	2052.60	2152.60			
2	1	PF ACC	3.759	-4.23	95.77			
2	AVE		3.759	-4.23	95.77			
ALL	WAVG			682.84	782.84			

**TESCO METER TEST RESULTS** 11:24 AM 08/30/2020

**TEST PARAMETERS**

TAG:  ITERATION:  TEST STATUS: **TEST FINISHED**

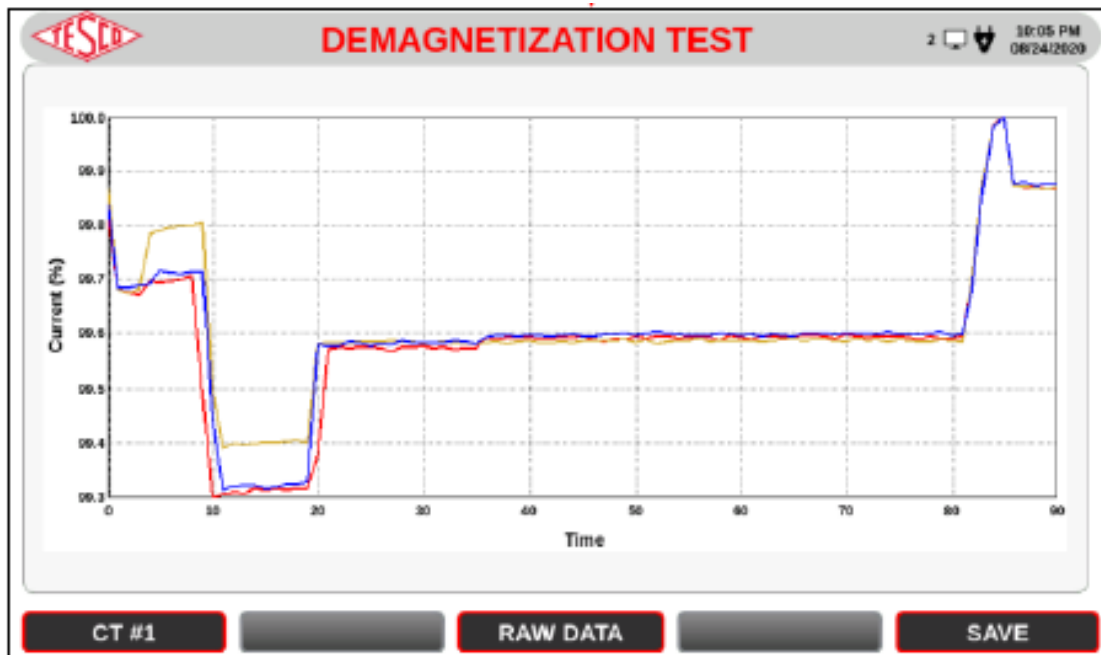
PULSES: PRESET:  ACTUAL:  REMAINING:  WHrs:

**TEST RESULTS**

TEST	ITR	TAG	WHrs	%ERROR	REG	P/F	W	Va
0	0	CL	1.800	0.02	100.02	PASS		277.05
0	AVE		1.800	0.02	100.02	PASS	1.00	277.05
1	0	FL	1.800	-0.00	100.00	PASS		277.05
1	AVE		1.800	-0.00	100.00	PASS	1.00	277.05
ALL	WAVG			0.01	100.01	PASS		

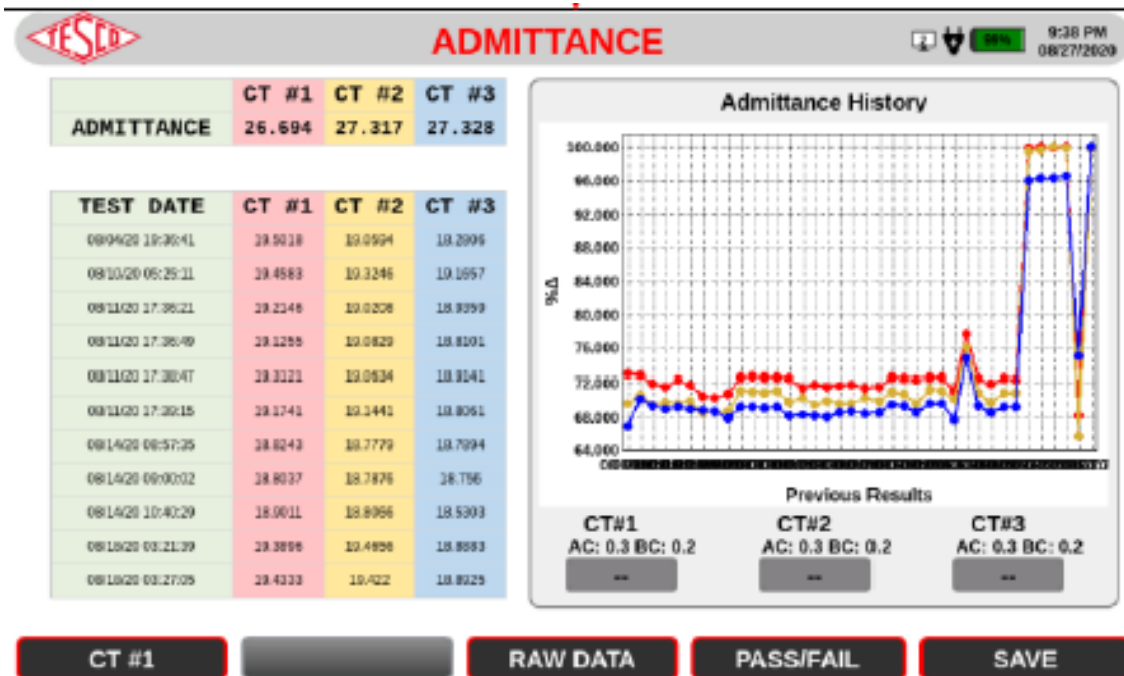
**CANCEL** **REDO** **DONE**

# Demagnetization Testing



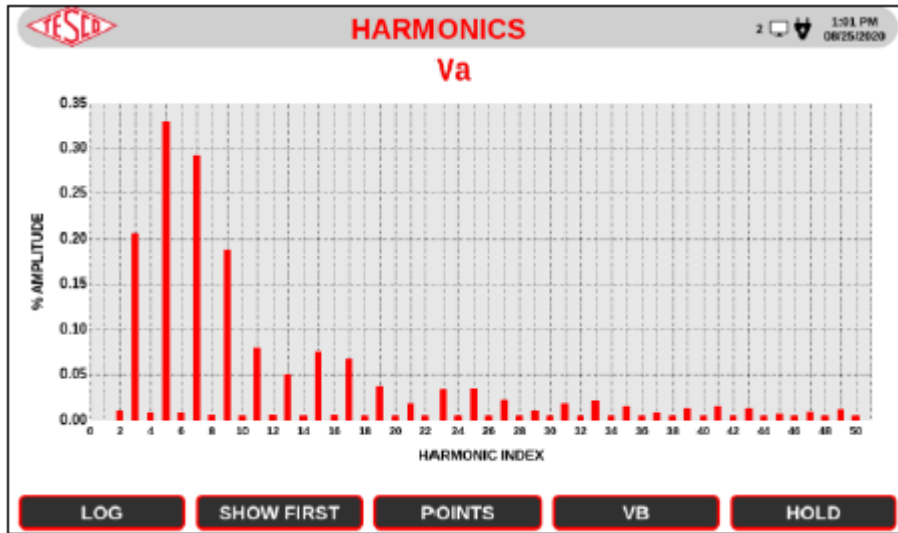
- ✓ Current transformers (CTs) show large errors when they are magnetized by dc current. This error can be reduced after proper demagnetization.
- ✓ One of the methods to demagnetize the CT is to increase the core flux by increasing its burden. This method enables to restore the nominal precision of the heavily magnetized CT from 2.5% back to 0.2% without interruption of the CT operation.

# Admittance Testing



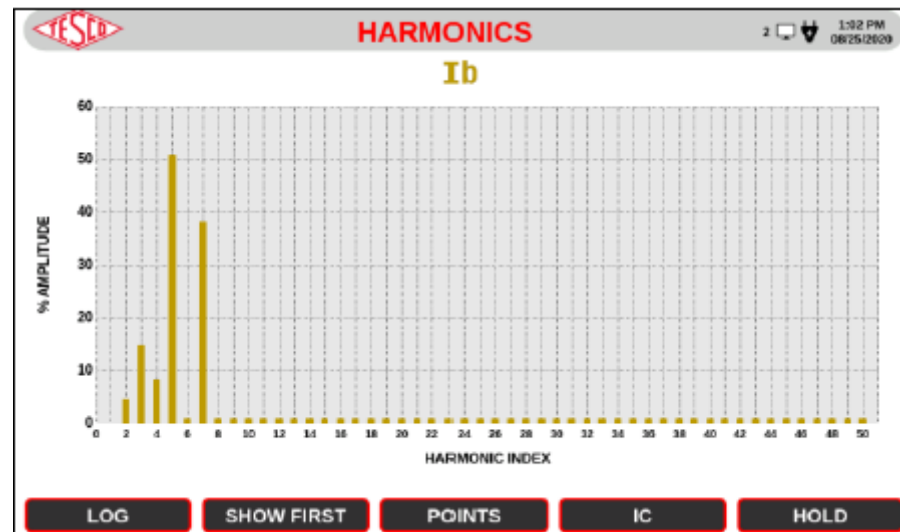
- ✓ **Admittance** is a measure of how easily a circuit or device will allow a current to flow. It is defined as the reciprocal of impedance.
- ✓ The SI Unit of admittance is the (symbol S)

# Harmonics Testing



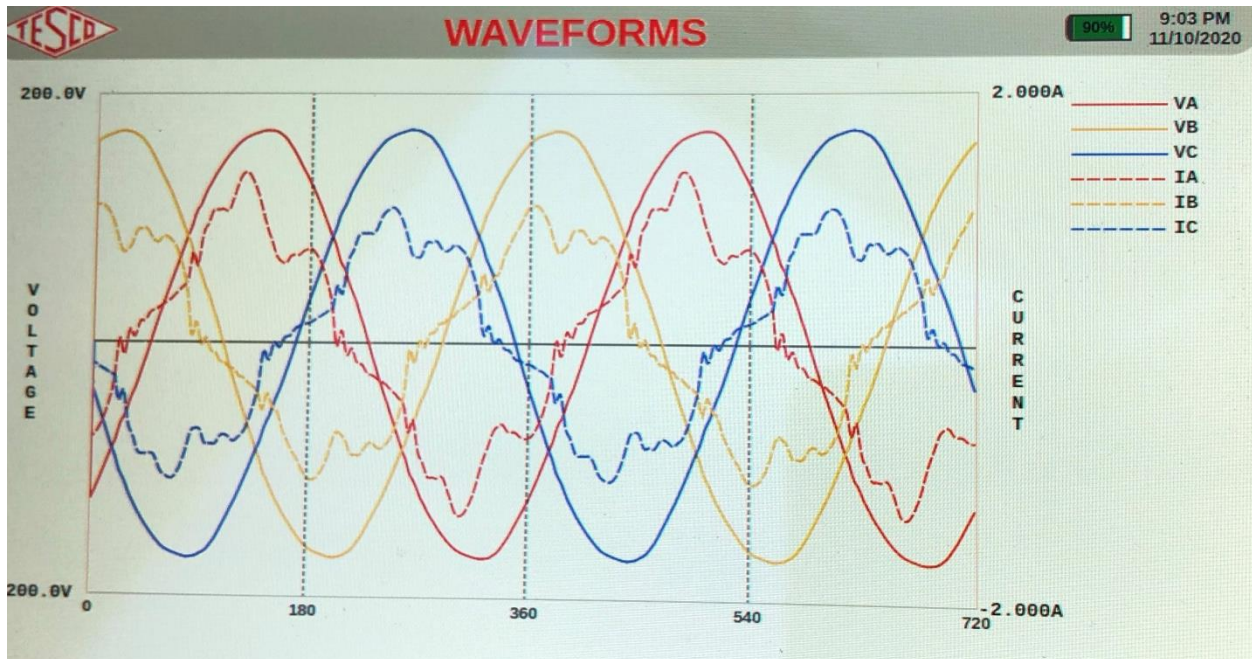
- ✓ Harmonics are integer frequencies often found with non linear loads.

THD=Total Harmonic  
Distortion  
 $V_{thd} < 5\%$





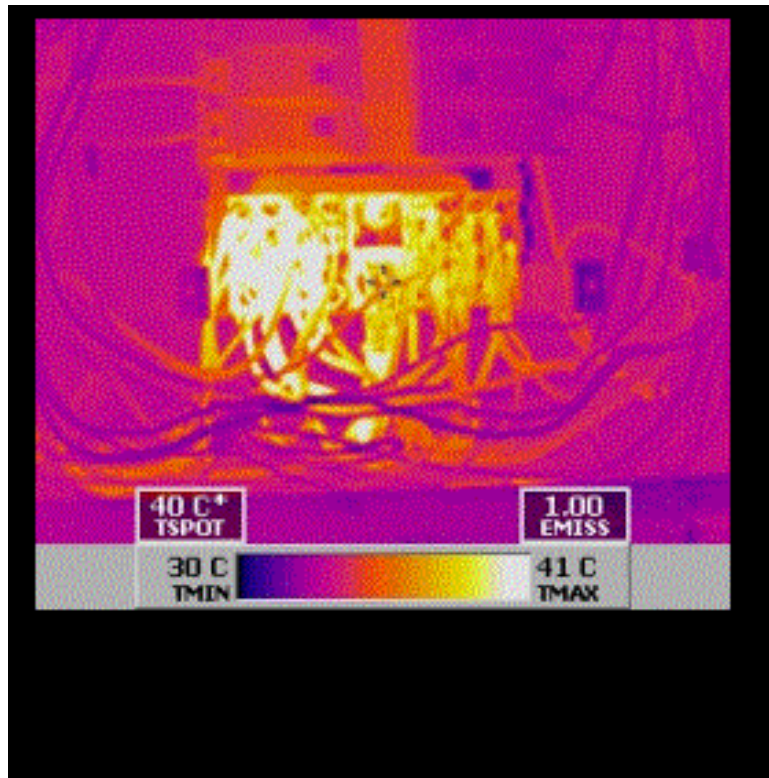
# Harmonics Testing-Waveforms



- ✓ **Harmonics** are generated as a voltage or current at an integer frequency of the system, produced by the action of non-linear loads such as rectifiers, discharge lighting, or switch mode power supplies.
- ✓ Harmonic frequencies in the power grid are a frequent cause of power quality problems.

# Harmonics Testing-Waveforms

What is the problem with Harmonics?



## HEAT.

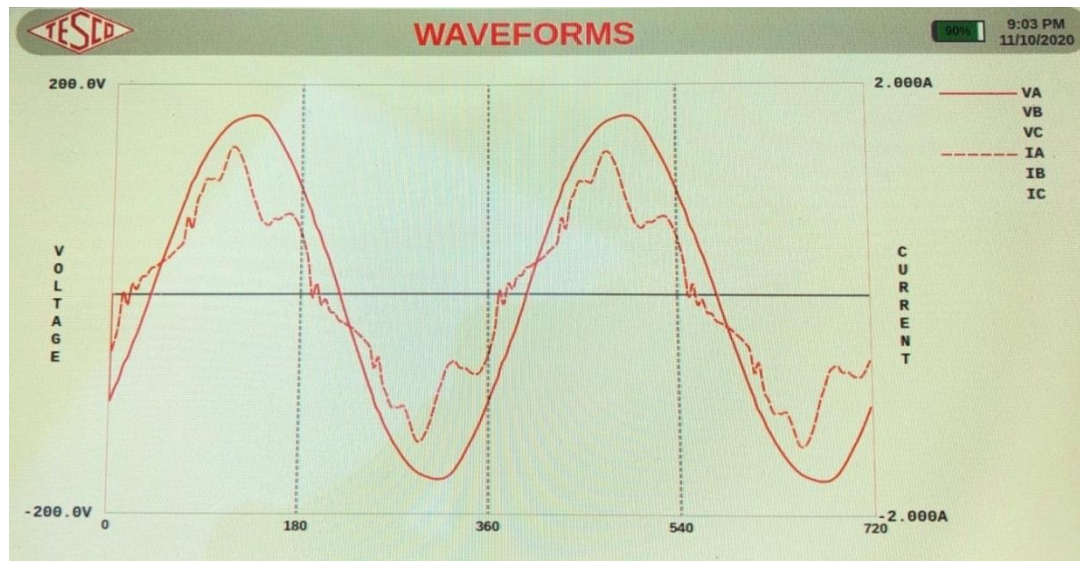
- ✓ Can cause significant damage
- ✓ Safety Hazard
- ✓ Poor Power Factor
- ✓ AMI Mesh Interference
- ✓ Transformer Overheating
- ✓ Loss of service

*Image courtesy of irinfo.org*

# Harmonics Testing-Waveforms

Can we reduce or eliminate Harmonics?

- ✓ Perhaps not eliminate. But we can reduce their impact.
- ✓ We live in non linear world of power where harmonics are generated.
- ✓ Pulse Width Modulation conversion and AC Frequency Drive Motors and Pumps.
- ✓ Many thousands of today's electrical products have Switch Mode Power Supply devices.

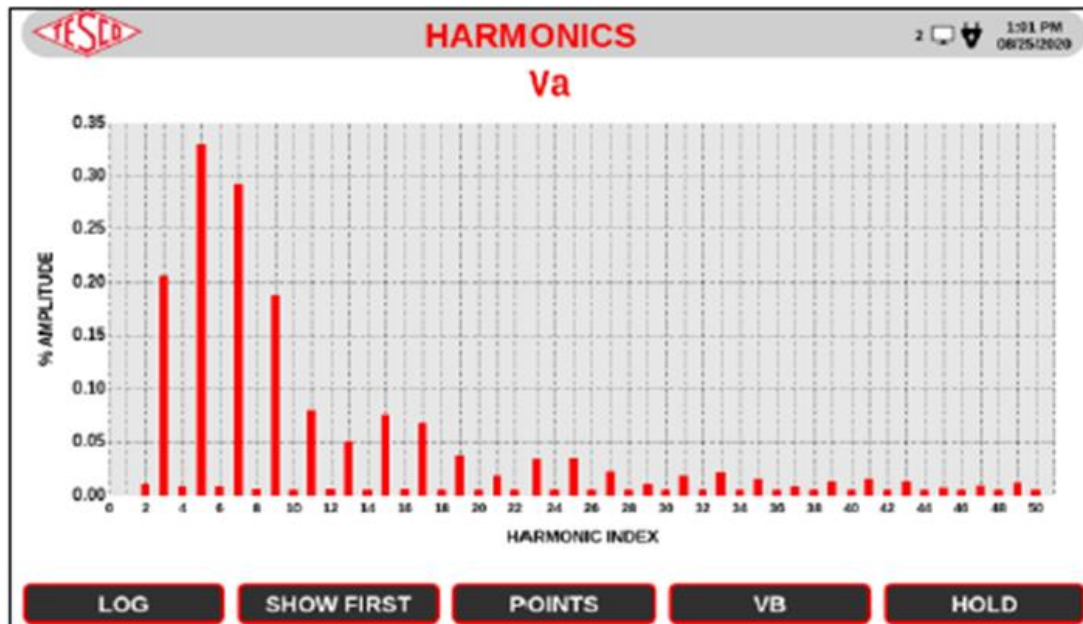


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# Harmonics Testing-Waveforms

How can we reduce the impact of harmonics ?

- ✓ Measure and determine major harmonic condition under customer load.
- ✓ Assess most significant even & odd harmonics.
- ✓ Active Harmonic Filtering can reduce most significant index.
- ✓ Power Factor Correction Capacitor.





# Testing at Transformer Rated Sites

- ✓ Meter Accuracy
- ✓ Customer Load
- ✓ Full Load
- ✓ Light Load
- ✓ Power Factor
- ✓ CT Health
- ✓ Burden Testing
- ✓ Ratio Testing
- ✓ Demagnetization
- ✓ Admittance Testing
- ✓ Harmonics Assessment
- ✓ Site Verification



# Periodic Site Inspections.....

## ....Can Discover or Prevent:

- Billing Errors
- Bad Metering set-up
- Detect Current Diversion
- Identify Potential Safety Issues
- Metering Issues (issues not related to meter accuracy)
- AMR/AMI Communications Issues
- The need for Unscheduled Truck Rolls due to Undetected Field Related Issues
- Discrepancies between what is believed to be at a given site versus the actual setup and equipment at the site



# Questions and Discussion



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