



# HV Transformer Bushing Anomaly

## Detection, Replacement and Analysis of the Failure

Rogério Silva

INVISTA - Site Reliability Engineer

Attílio Bruno Veratti

ICON Tecnologia - Consultant Level III Thermographer





Camera used in this  
inspection:  
FLIR T640  
640 x 480 pixels

Images Processing  
Software:  
Reporter 8.5

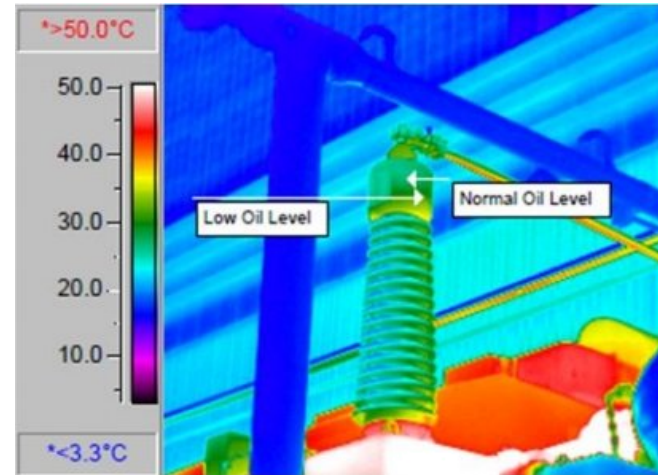
Inspection Management  
Software:  
ICON SIE ATS



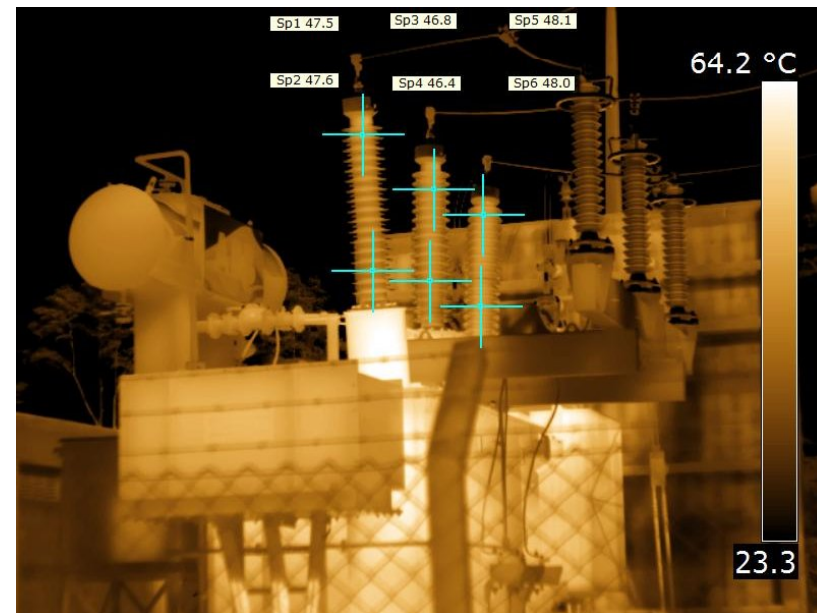


Oil level can be detected on the transformer bushings because the winding produces a heat source that heats the oil in the main tank and the bushings. The bushings have an expansion chamber at the top.

Since the oil has a higher thermal mass than the void, the expansion chamber temperature profile shows the oil level. This is then checked in IR images to verify the temperature uniformity and see if this matches the gauge or site glass.



Low Oil Level



Normal temperature distribution on bushings



## Anomalies

### Too High, Too Low

IR scans of bushings can show **too high** oil level in a bushing which generally means the seal in the bottom of the bushing has failed and oil head from the conservator, or nitrogen pressure, has pushed transformer oil up the bushing. Another reason a bushing can exhibit high oil level is the top seal leaking, allowing water to enter. The water migrates to the bushing bottom displacing the oil upward.

**Too low** an oil level generally means that the seal in the bushing bottom has failed, leaking oil into the transformer or the top seal has failed allowing air and moisture to enter the top.





## Anomalies Too High, Too Low

In any case these anomalies would call for immediate deenergization and replacement.

Bushings commonly fail catastrophically, many times destroying the host transformer or breaker, nearby equipment and causing hazards to workers.







## Event of January 2013.

During a routine IR inspection we detect an anomaly in the bushings of the 13 MVA transformer in the Main Substation.

Thermal images show that the center bushing has a cold area, evidence of oil leak from bushing to main oil transformer tank.

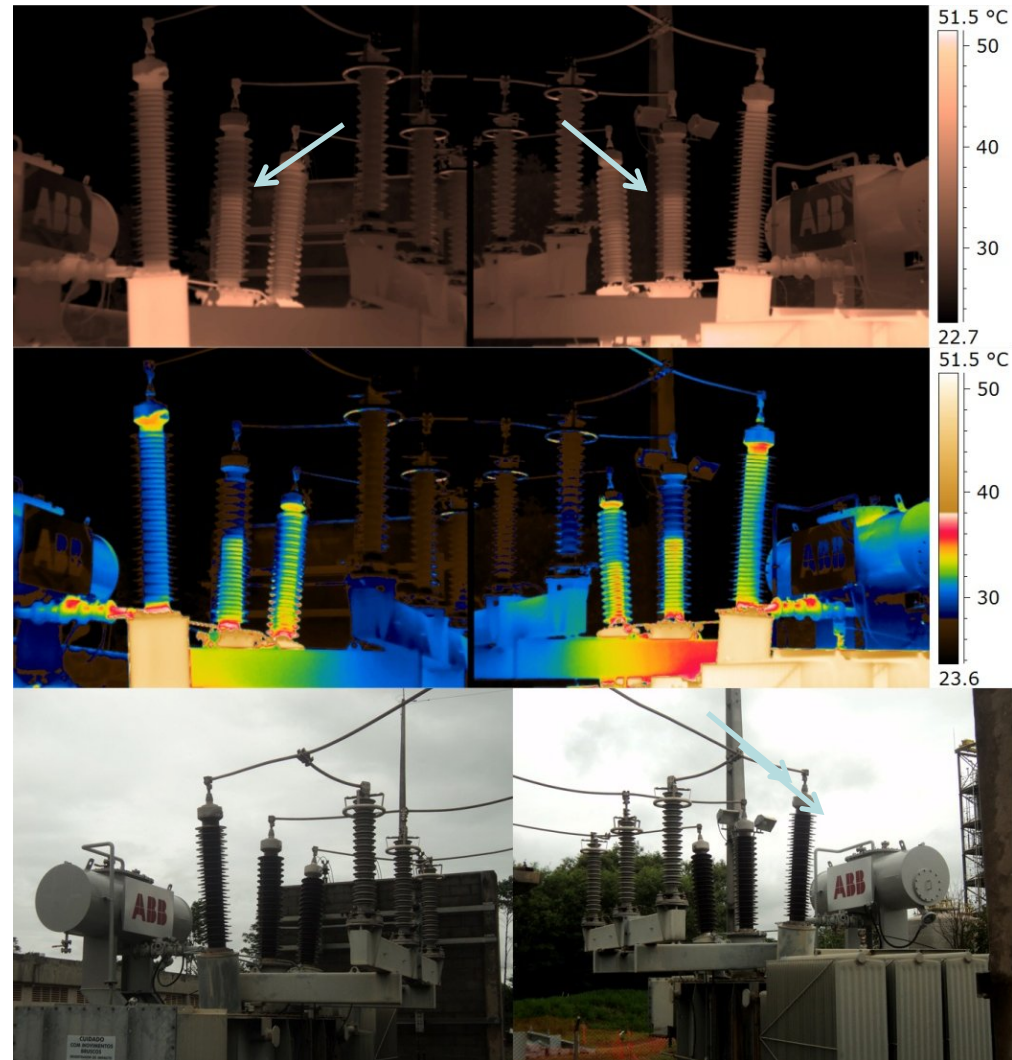
Inspeção: 1301U		Data de Emissão: 13/01/2013	
<b>P o n t o</b>			
Seqência:	196	TAG: SE 138-TRAF ABB---ENTRADA	
SE 138	SUBESTAÇÃO 138 KV	Abrangência:	G Global
TRAF ABB	TRANSFORMADOR ABB 12,5 / 16 MVA	Último Status:	PN
-		Status Atual:	NC
ENTRADA	ENTRADA AT	Dificuldade:	
<b>O c o r r ê n c i a</b>			
Componente:	CNC COMPONENTE NÃO ESPECIFICADO		
Parte:	NAP NENHUM AQUEC. PREVISTO - AMB + 10°C		
Descrição:	Corpo do Isolador de entrada do trafo de 138 KV. Análise realizada por delta de temperatura no corpo do isolador.		
MTA:	36	AFF:	0
Status Ocorr.:	NC	CEF:	0
<b>O r d e m d e R e p a r o</b>			
SAP n:		Observações:	
Abertura:	Data:	Responsável:	
Fechamento:	Data:	Responsável:	
<b>Ficha de Acompanhamento da Ocorrência (FAO)</b>			
ID:	00130.00102.00102		
Inspetor:	ATTILIO	Data:	10/01/2013 Hora: 00:00:00
T. Amb. (°C)	20	C. Med. (A / %)	100 100 100
V.Vento (m/s)	0	T.Comp. (°C)	30 34.5 22
Emissividade	0.75	T. Corr. (°C)	31 35 23
C.N. (A ou %)	100	Classificação	PROG IMED NORM
Ação:	RISCO: MÉDIO ALTO		
*** VERIFICAR CARACTERÍSTICAS DO COMPONENTE - URGENTE ***			
		Diagnóstico: Falha Potencial P.R.I.: Até 21 dia(s) D.L.I.: 31/01/2013	



## Event of January 2013.

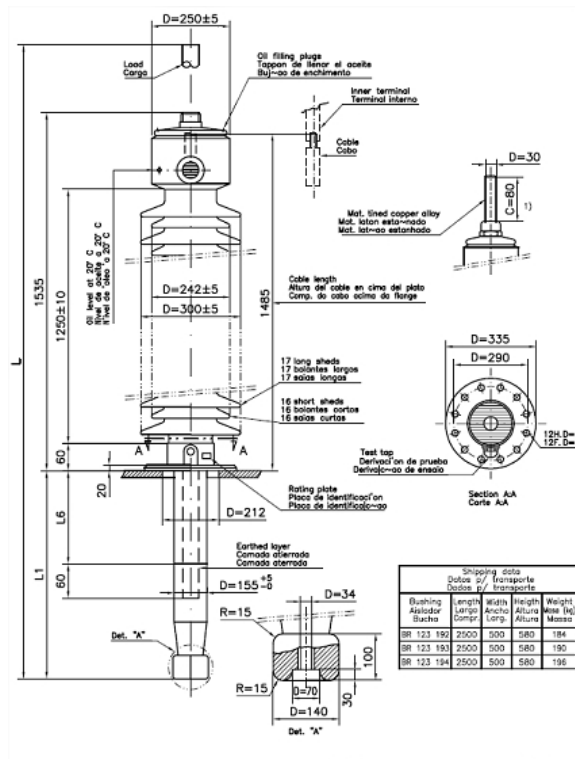
During a routine IR inspection we detect an anomaly in the bushings of the 13 MVA transformer in the Main Substation.

Thermal images show that the center bushing has a cold area, evidence of oil leak from bushing to main oil transformer tank.





# Event of January 2013. The Replacement - Bushing Drawing and Whitdrawal.







## Event of January 2013. Study of the Root Cause of the Failure.

During the bushing disassembly it was detected that the gasket used in the bottom of bushing base was damaged apparently when bushing was assembled.  
This gasket seals the insulating oil bushing.





# Event of January 2013. Infrared Inspection After Repair.

Inspeção: 1301U Data de Emissão: 13/01/2013

Ponto

Seqüência: 196 TAG: SE 138-TRAF ABB--ENTRADA  
SE 138 SUBESTAÇÃO 138 KV Abrangência: G Global  
TRAF ABB TRANSFORMADOR ABB 12,5 / 16 MVA Último Status: PN  
- Status Atual: NC  
ENTRADA ENTRADA AT Dificuldade:

Ocorrência

Componente: CNC COMPONENTE NÃO ESPECIFICADO  
Parte: NAP NENHUM AQUEC. PREVISTO - AMB + 10°C  
Descrição: Corpo do isolador de entrada do tráfó de 138 kV. Análise realizada por delta de temperatura no corpo do isolador.

MTA: 36 AFF: 0  
Status Ocor.: NC CEF: 0

Ordem de Reparo

SAP n: Observações:

Abertura: Data: Responsável:  
Fechamento: Data: Responsável:

Ficha de Acompanhamento de Ocorrência (FAO)

ID: 00130.00102.00102  
Inspetor: ATILIO Data: 10/01/2013 Hora: 00:00:00

T. Amb. (°C)	20	C. Med. (A / %)	100	100	100
V.Vento (m/s)	0	T.Comp. (°C)	30	34.5	22
Emissividade	0.75	T. Corrig. (°C)	31	35	23
C.N. (A ou %)	100	Classificação	PROG	IMED	NORM
Ação:	RISCO: MÉDIO ALTO				

\*\*\* VERIFICAR CARACTERÍSTICAS DO COMPONENTE - URGENTE \*\*\*

Diagnóstico: Falha Potencial  
P.R.I.: Até 21 dia(s)  
D.L.I.: 31/01/2013

Inspeção: 1301U Data de Emissão: 24/01/2013

Ponto

Seqüência: 196 TAG: SE 138-TRAF ABB--ENTRADA  
SE 138 SUBESTAÇÃO 138 KV Abrangência: G Global  
TRAF ABB TRANSFORMADOR ABB 12,5 / 16 MVA Último Status: PN  
- Status Atual: CI  
ENTRADA ENTRADA AT Dificuldade:

Ocorrência

Componente: CNC COMPONENTE NÃO ESPECIFICADO  
Parte: NAP NENHUM AQUEC. PREVISTO - AMB + 10°C  
Descrição: Corpo do isolador de entrada do tráfó de 138 kV. Análise realizada por delta de temperatura no corpo do isolador.

MTA: 36 AFF: 0  
Status Ocor.: CI CEF: 0

Ordem de Reparo

SAP n: Observações:

Abertura: Data: Responsável:  
Fechamento: Data: Responsável:

Ficha de Acompanhamento de Ocorrência (FAO)

ID: 00130.00102.00105  
Inspetor: ATILIO Data: 10/01/2013 Hora: 00:00:00

T. Amb. (°C)	28	C. Med. (A / %)	100	100	100
V.Vento (m/s)	0	T.Comp. (°C)	29	29	29
Emissividade	0.75	T. Corrig. (°C)	30	30	30
C.N. (A ou %)	100	Classificação	NORM	NORM	NORM
Ação:	RISCO: NORM				

Reparado

Diagnóstico: PR.I.:  
D.L.I.:



## Event of January 2013. Infrared Inspection After Repair.

Thermal images compare the gradient of the bushing presenting failure (Top) and after replacement (Bottom).

Last Slide

