

Proactive Containment A SOUND AND SAFE POLICY

US PAT. 10,266,307 Other PAT. PEND. CAN. PAT. PEND.

**TRANSFORMER
CONTAINMENT
BAG**
LIFT IT, MOVE IT, STORE IT! ALL IN ONE BAG!



It is important for line crews to stay vigilant when it comes to safety. Utilities continually look for new ways to improve service levels, maintain compliance and become more competitive, and it may be necessary, from time to time, to stop and reassess safety considerations and regulatory compliance. That is especially true when considering the changes in the workforce caused by the loss of legacy knowledge as one generation passes the torch to the next generation.

Of the many jobs line crews perform, transformer changeouts are possibly the least enjoyable. There are numerous safety concerns a line crew must consider when engaging in those projects. Most obvious would be the proscribed procedures for safe handling of live conductors. But of no less importance is the safe operation of the vehicle mounted crane/hoist, the required type and condition of the necessary gear and tools, and the individual responsibilities of each line crew member present during a changeout.

According to the Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) the responsibility for lifting any load (in this case a transformer) belongs to the “Designated Personnel” as defined in 29 CFR 1910.180 [1] and rigging the load (again the transformer) belongs to the “Rigger” as defined in ASME B30.5-2018 [2].

It might seem obvious, but how does the “Rigger” attach the load to be lifted? Most utility line crews attach or rig the load utilizing a certified sling [3, 4] to the manufacturer’s engineered lifting lugs which are located on the transformer. This allows for the load to be balanced and secure [5] in compliance with OSHA guidelines, the transformer manufacturer’s guidelines, and The Lineman’s and Cableman’s Handbook: “...by using the lifting lugs built into the transformer at time of manufacture” [6].

Circumstances, for example a leaking transformer, can complicate the duties of the “Rigger” and the “Designated Personnel” on the line crew during this process. It raises the question of how the line crew follows their training for safe lifting and minimizes the potential of a spill. This part of the process can be messy and potentially dangerous. Depending on the location and age of the leak, transformer oils can spill when you’re removing the transformer from the mounting brackets, all the way to placing it on the back of the truck and taking it back to the yard. As most line crews already know, **even non-leaking transformers can start to leak once they are jostled during a changeout.**

The Transformer Containment Bag™ manufactured by Andax Industries, provides for both complete access to the transformer manufacturer’s lifting lugs and complete containment for the transformer, ensuring 100% OSHA Compliance.





The Transformer Containment Bag™ is the recipient of the Product of the Year award for Safety from Plant Engineering and Environmental Protection publications.

As that transformer reaches the ground, containing the spill becomes a high priority. Whether the oil is contaminated with PCBs or not, an oil spill can become a big concern for the line crew and the utility – very quickly. Terms such as “unregulated release” and “waterway contamination” become the starting point of costly fines and expensive cleanups. Containing the transformer as soon as possible, whether leaking or not, is a great way to minimize the potential costs and exposure related

References

- [1] US Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 2020
- [2] ASME B30.5-2018, 2018
- [3] US Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 2020
- [4] ASME B30.5-2018, 2018
- [5] US Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 2020
- [6] Thomas M. Shoemaker, 2017
- [7] Thomas M. Shoemaker, 2017

to potential spills during transformer changeouts. Even in a situation where a transformer was not leaking when lifted and removed but ended up leaking after being lifted into the back of the truck. It becomes a hazard when you factor the risk and liability of on the job slips and falls.

Proactive containment is a sound, safe policy for utilities and line crews when lifting and moving transformers. And given that just about everyone has a smart phone with the ability to post pictures and videos of your crew’s actions all over social media or the evening news, proactive containment is a game changer. So how can a line crew be proactive while lifting and moving a transformer during a changeout? First, line crews need the right tools for the job. They need the tools that allow the specific crew members to do their job properly, safely and in compliance with governmental regulations and company policies. In this specific case the line crew needs a tool that provides proactive containment for the transformer and allows for OSHA compliance while lifting, moving and storing the transformer. The transformer containment product has to allow the “Rigger” complete access to the manufacturer’s “lifting lugs built into the transformer at time of manufacture” [7]. **The transformer containment product has to contain the transformer, while allowing it to remain balanced and secured when the line crew is lifting, moving and storing it. This ensures 100% OSHA compliance for safe lifting and proactive containment and satisfies even the most stringent company safety compliance guidelines.**

The Transformer Containment Bag™ manufactured by Andax Industries, provides for both complete access to the transformer manufacturer’s lifting lugs and complete containment for the transformer, which ensures 100% OSHA Compliance. It is the tool that provides a proactive solution for utilities and line crews. The Transformer Containment Bag™ is also the recipient of the Product of the Year award for Safety from Plant Engineering and Environmental Protection publications. **Use the right tool for the job – The Andax Transformer Containment Bag™.**

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