

“Why bother to check those old surge suppressors anyway?”

(Heard from the back of the room)

Faulty surge suppressors can cause problems ranging from intermittent communications failures and scrambled control programs to catastrophic equipment damage from lightning-induced voltage spikes. Testing and replacing surge suppressors saves your agency money by reducing “nuisance calls” and problem diagnosis time, as well as the repairs and/or replacement of damaged controllers, monitors, and power supplies in your cabinets. Why bother? The answer is to save money and headaches.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR A SURGE SUPPRESSOR TESTER:

1.0 The tester shall measure the parameters (peak and average clamping voltage levels) needed to assess the capabilities of most types of transient voltage suppressor.

2.0 The tester shall be lightweight, portable and battery-operated, using commonly available 9V alkaline batteries.

2.1 The tester shall provide a visible low-battery indicator.

2.2 The tester shall weigh less than 4 lb.

2.3 The tester shall be housed in a handheld carrying case.

3.0 The tester shall be able to test the following suppressor types:

- a. Metal-oxide varistors
- b. Gas-discharge tubes
- c. Silicon avalanche diodes
- d. Thyristor surge-protective devices

4.0 The tester shall have an open-circuit voltage of at least 2000 V and a short-circuit current limited to 1.5mA for operator safety.

4.1 The tester shall be capable of continuously driving a short-circuit at the test leads.

4.2 The tester shall be clearly labeled as producing dangerous high voltages.

5.0 The tester shall deliver a ramped output current to 1mA DC starting from 0mA DC, over the range of output voltages from 0V to 1500V.

6.0 The tester shall measure both the peak and average DC voltage drop of the device under test, switch selectable.

7.0 Test data shall be reported on a 3-1/2 digit LCD display with 1/2-inch character height.

8.0 The tester shall utilize a single push-button for testing.

8.1 There shall be voltage present on the test leads only while the test push-button is activated.

8.2 The test push-button shall have a button guard to prevent accidental activation.

The ATSI Model SST-400 Surge Suppressor Tester meets all the above specifications.

If your shop is looking for ways to save time and money, creating and improving a comprehensive preventive maintenance program is a great way to go. Reliable and effective test equipment makes your PM program easier to implement and simplifies the procedures in the field. The SST-400 tester is the latest addition to the popular line of test equipment developed and manufactured by Athens Technical Specialists, Inc. (ATSI). We take great pride in serving the Traffic Industry with time-saving tools that help our public agencies become more efficient. Contact ATSI for further information and the name of your local Authorized Distributor.



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