

# REMOTE OPERATING DEVICES FOR SWITCHGEAR

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**M**odern switchgear is designed for arc proof operation to protect operators against injury in the event of an internal arc fault. However, there is a huge population of ageing switchgear in service without any arc fault protection, which places operators at risk on a regular basis.

## SWITCHGEAR RACKING UNITS

Racking of switchgear circuit breakers is a high-risk activity during which any mechanical or electrical failure could result in a catastrophic arc fault. Power Control Engineers (PCE) have developed a range of Switchgear Racking Units (SRU) which allow the racking operation to be undertaken remotely. Units are available for all manufacturers switchgear and include both vertical and horizontal racking. PCE customise units to accommodate specific site requirements such as interlocking or greater portability.



Switchgear Operator in full PPE

## SWITCHGEAR RETROFITTING

A second activity, which necessitates operators in close proximity to switchgear, is the charging of spring operating mechanisms and actual switching operations. PCE recently designed and supplied a trolley mounted mechanism to remotely activate the close and trip operations of Reyrolle type C bulk oil switchgear for Holcim Cement in New Zealand. The trolley is designed to roll up to the switch to be activated and be latched in position. Close and trip actions requiring pull and push actions respectively may then be initiated through a pendant control from a remote position. Holcim Cement had already adopted full PPE for operators of their switchgear, but this device greatly reduces the risk to these personnel by removing them to a safe distance from the location of a potential explosion and fireball.



Trolley mounted trip and closing device

*For further information or to arrange an inspection of your switchgear, contact Ken Bode at PCE.*



## Power Control Engineers Pty Ltd

*Electrical Engineers,  
Designers and Consultants*



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