

June 2024

Cover Story

PM Modi Instructs to Conduct Regular Electrical Safety Audits to Prevent Fires



Proper drills for preventing and handling incidents of fire must be done on a regular basis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi instructs routine fire and electrical safety audits for hospitals and public facilities to address rising fire incidents due to electrical faults.

On June 2, PM Modi directed departments to conduct regular safety audits following recent **deadly fires in Delhi and Rajkot**. These audits and fire drills are vital with ongoing heatwaves and varied monsoon forecasts.

Why These Audits Are Crucial?

- Prevent Electrical Faults
- Protect lives and property in hospitals and public places
- Regular drills and audits improve emergency response

ICA India's Efforts

- **Awareness Campaigns for Government officials, legislators, and regulators** to improve electrical safety standards and stringent execution.
- **Collaborating with cable manufacturers, industry associations, civil society organizations, and fire safety experts** to ensure compliance with Indian standards, safeguarding lives and property, and fulfilling PM Modi's vision of a safe and reliable electrical infrastructure.

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In Focus

Advancing Self-Sustainable Power Distribution

Webinar - Moving Towards a Self-Sustainable Power Distribution Sector

On May 28, 2024, ICA India and FICCI hosted a webinar discussing the path to a self-sustainable power distribution sector. Key participants included the Ministry of Power, Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, and Niti Aayog.

Key Highlights

- **State Advancements** - Mr Hemant Verma, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, highlighted progressive steps in state power distribution.
- **Government Initiatives** - Mr Atul Kumar Bali, Director of the National Smart Grid Mission, discussed actions to enhance the sector, such as smart grid implementations.
- **Strategic Insights** - Mr Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, Deputy Advisor at NITI Aayog, outlined initiatives and a roadmap for improving the sector, focusing on innovation and sustainability.
- **ICA India's Contribution** - Launched a report with FICCI on '**Self-Sustainable Power Distribution Sector**' and highlighted copper's role and its benefits

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The webinar underscored the unified effort towards a resilient and sustainable power distribution sector.

ICA India Events



ICA India Events

Media Focus

Mayur Karmarkar on Sustainable Motor Rewinding and Fire Safety



Building Safer India: Copper's Critical Role in Electrical Fire Prevention - *Electrical India*

Advocates for high-quality copper conductors to prevent electrical fires, urging stricter regulations and proactive safety measures

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The recent tragic fire at a gaming zone in Rajkot, Gujarat, serves as a harrowing reminder of the catastrophic impact of electrical fires. Claiming the lives of at least 27 people, including nine children, fire engulfed the two-storey building housing the TRP Game Zone. The facility, packed with around 300 people, primarily children drawn in by the allure of summer vacation and weekend leisure, descended into a scene of chaos and despair. As search and rescue operations continue, this grim episode highlights the pervasive threat posed by electrical fires, particularly in areas where crowded spaces and substandard infrastructure amplify the risk to dangerous proportions.

The statistics paint a worrying picture. As reported in media, a disturbing trend was observed during the second half of 2023, which saw 112 fire accidents, resulting in 131 deaths and 164 injuries. Heavily impacting both residential and commercial areas, electrical short circuits were identified as the primary cause in 58% of these fires, closely followed by other electrical faults at 49%.

We must ask ourselves: will we merely react to these tragedies, or will we take proactive steps to prevent them from occurring in the first place?

With increasing occupancy, hot summers, and rapid urbanisation in India, the threat of electrical fires has become a significant public safety concern. These alarming figures call for urgent proactive intervention to address the root causes of electrical fires.

One of the major factors contributing to the prevalence of electrical fires is the use of low-quality wires and cables. Substandard conductor materials increase the risk of short circuits and fires, posing a grave threat to public safety. Consumers need to prioritise safety by investing in reliable, high-quality electrical components. ETP-grade copper conductors, renowned for their superior electrical and physical properties, offer a safer alternative to mitigate the risk of electrical fires. By ensuring all copper conductors in buildings, we can significantly reduce the occurrence of these devastating incidents.

Government intervention is paramount in ensuring compliance with safety measures. Recent directives from the honourable Prime Minister mandating fire and electricity audits are a step in the right direction. However, greater emphasis must be placed on using only copper conductors in buildings and recognising copper's attributes to mitigate the risk of electrical fires. It is encouraging to see various government agencies and leading construction companies, including the Central Public Works Department, DLF, and Raheja, advocating for using only copper conductors to protect lives and properties.

The consequences of inaction are dire. Relying on low-quality materials to save costs in the short term can have devastating long-term consequences, jeopardising lives and incurring higher expenses when accidents

Revolutionising energy efficiency



By
Mayur Karmarkar

Effective electric motor rewinding practices are vital for enhancing energy efficiency and mitigating carbon emissions.

BY: Mayur Karmarkar, Managing Director, International Copper Association India

At the recently concluded COP28, climate finance took the centre stage with a commitment to mobilise over \$57 billion and setting the pace for a new era in climate action. The amount of cash needed for the energy transition, climate adaptation and disaster relief are overwhelming and estimated that emerging markets and developing countries will need \$2.4 trillion a year in investment to cap emissions and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

While the need for finance has been talked much as much needed resource to accelerate the pace of decarbonisation, many of the low hanging fruits still need to be explored and implemented. Ensuring energy efficiency of electric motors through proper rewinding is one such example that promises impactful results without the need for developing any new cutting-edge technology. Instead, it requires a shift in focus towards skill development and service enhancement to make the process more efficient. It is a simple yet effective solution that holds the potential to yield substantial reductions in energy consumption and,

consequently, carbon emissions.

Electric motors and motor driven systems account for approximately 70% of the electricity consumed by industries and industry accounts for approximately 42% of total electricity consumption in India. Hence, efficiency of electric motors should not be overlooked.

In FY22, India produced around 4.37 million units of industrial LT motors, with a total installed base of 39 million units. However, the average lifespan of these motors varies from 13 to 22 years, depending on the end-user industry. Approximately 12 million LT induction motors were rewound in FY22, constituting 30% of the installed base.

In India, rewinding of damaged or burnt-out motors is a common practice across various applications, including industrial, agricultural, and residential sectors. While rewinding is a cost-effective alternative to purchasing new motors, it can significantly impact motor efficiency, leading to higher operational costs.

The frequent rewinding of electric motors, often

Revolutionising Energy Efficiency - *Manufacturing Today*

Explains the benefits of modern motor rewinding, highlighting energy efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainability.

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