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## VDE FNN FAULT MANAGEMENT

### EFFICIENT INCIDENT HANDLING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY & PROCESS EXPERTISE

Decentralized feed-in, volatile generation, and rising demands on supply security are posing increasing challenges for grid operators. In this context, the VDE FNN guideline on “Entstörungsmanagement” (fault/incident management) is becoming particularly important.

#### Fault Management as a Duty

Disturbances in the power grid are not just inconvenient – they can be dangerous and economically significant. Power grid operators (Stromnetzbetreiber) are legally obligated to immediately mitigate hazards and restore supply in the event of faults or damage to the energy infrastructure.

This requires an effective fault management system that is ready for action 24/7. Mandatory requirements include immediate responsiveness, constant availability, and comprehensive, legally defensible documentation (gerichtsfeste Dokumentation). The current VDE FNN guideline on fault management provides the first comprehensive specification of requirements, including organizational structures, on-site presence, training of responsible personnel, and documentation processes. Today, even a single fault can have systemic effects – ranging from regional outages to widespread issues.

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## Digitalization & Energy Transition Competence as Key Factors

Modern fault management is hardly feasible without digital tools. Real-time data, automated reporting systems, and AI-supported forecasting help identify and resolve disturbances proactively. Grid operators who view digitalization as a strategic capability rather than a mere IT project can act decisively in crisis situations.

Equally crucial is expertise in the energy transition (Energiewendekompetenz): implementing technical requirements must go hand in hand with legal and organizational understanding. Only those who integrate technology, law, and operational processes can sustainably ensure supply security. Terms like "immediately" (unverzüglich) or "legally defensible documentation" (gerichtsfest dokumentieren) are not mere formalities; they determine liability and reputation in critical situations. Here, interdisciplinary partners provide tangible value: advisory services that combine technical implementation, operational practice, and legal safeguarding create planning certainty and minimize risk.

The VDE FNN guideline on fault management is more than a technical rulebook – it is a strategic guide for grid operators who take their role in the energy transition seriously. Investing today in organization, digitalization, and legally sound processes secures not only supply but also the operator's future viability. Competence, reliability, and innovation work together seamlessly – demonstrating that modern power grids can be resilient, efficient, and future-proof.

**How well is your company prepared? Which processes and digital tools are you already using to manage faults effectively? Join the discussion on LinkedIn – sharing experiences and best practices helps the entire industry make grid operations more resilient.**

***Note: This article reflects our practical experience and is not a substitute for legal advice.***

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