Interlocking between different switchgear apparatus and enclosure access covers and doors enhances personnel safety, as well as improving operational convenience. Interlocking uses electrical and mechanical methods or a combination of both.

1. For metal-enclosed switchgear with removable switching apparatus:
   - the switching device must be in the open position before it can be withdrawn
   - the switching device can only be operated in the positive service or test position
   - the switching device cannot be closed unless the auxiliary control circuits required to open the switch are connected.
2. For metal-enclosed switchgear with disconnectors:
   - a disconnector cannot be operated under conditions other than those for which it is intended to be used
   - a disconnector cannot be operated unless the main switching device is open
   - operation of a main switching device is prevented unless its associated disconnector is in a positive service, test or earth position.
   - disconnectors providing isolation for maintenance and servicing must have a
locking facility.

The figure shows a common switchgear arrangement for a medium voltage. This switchgear arrangement uses three separate interlocking methods.