

ENGINEERING FIELD GUIDE

A PLC backup is not complete until recovery is tested

Plan a restore drill that checks project files, licenses, hardware dependencies and operational acceptance.

01 Define the recovery package

List everything needed to reconstruct the working system: project source, compiled artifacts where applicable, device configuration, compatible engineering software, licenses and communication settings. Record versions and checksums. A file named final-backup does not establish which machine state it represents or whether it can be opened on an available workstation.

02 Choose an isolated test boundary

Use an approved spare controller, simulator or vendor-supported test setup. Confirm limitations: a simulator may validate logic loading but not field I/O behavior. Name the automation owner and define what is prohibited. A recovery drill should not unexpectedly write to a running production controller.

03 Measure the whole recovery

Time the process from locating the package to opening the project, loading the approved target and completing the defined checks. Record missing passwords, unsupported software and undocumented steps as findings. Distinguish the time to restore software from the time to make the process safe and ready to operate.

04 Close the loop after changes

Keep the drill result with the backup reference, test environment and sign-off. Update the package after approved controller changes and check that retention includes a known working predecessor. Define who reviews failed checks and when. The deliverable is a repeatable recovery procedure with evidence, not merely a successful file copy.

TEAM WORKSHEET

From checks to a decision.

Work through this page together. Assign an owner and evidence to each check.

Site / line

Date / version

Owner / team

Pilot boundary

☐ Define the recovery package

Evidence / open issue / owner:

☐ Choose an isolated test boundary

Evidence / open issue / owner:

☐ Measure the whole recovery

Evidence / open issue / owner:

☐ Close the loop after changes

Evidence / open issue / owner:

Acceptance decision and next step

[] Accept [] Revise [] Hold

Acceptance criterion / result

Next action / owner / due date

Rollback trigger / plan

Project-specific support: aspdijital.com