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The way to fast and "loss-free" SPS kickers

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After modification in the 2003/2004 shutdown the overall injection kicker rise time was quantified more precisely. The improvements for four-batch LHC type beam injection have not yet been fully reproducible. The present status will be presented and possible further improvements be discussed. An overview of the extraction kicker modifications made to meet the LHC and CNGS requirements will be given. The 2004 operational experience with the horizontal tune kicker, equipped with metallised ceramic inserts in the previous shutdown, will be reported. Further developments to reduce the SPS kicker beam impedance and heating will be discussed, along with first results from laboratory tests and possible implementation schedules. Prospects for further improvements beyond 2006 will be briefly outlined.

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