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Review of the machine protection system in the SPS

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In the past few years the SPS beam interlock systems have been entirely renovated. The core of the beam and extraction interlock systems are now made with the same electronic components than the LHC. Those system provide flexibility, a high level of safety and excellent post-mortem diagnostics. A new flexible Software Interlock System was designed for the SPS. Although together those two systems provide the SPS with powerful interlocks systems, there are still significant issues for the protection of the SPS ring and of the North transfer line that resulted in two major machine protection incidents in 2007 and 2008. This presentation will provide an overview of the SPS protection systems and highlight some of the issues that still need to be addressed to make the SPS a safer place.

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