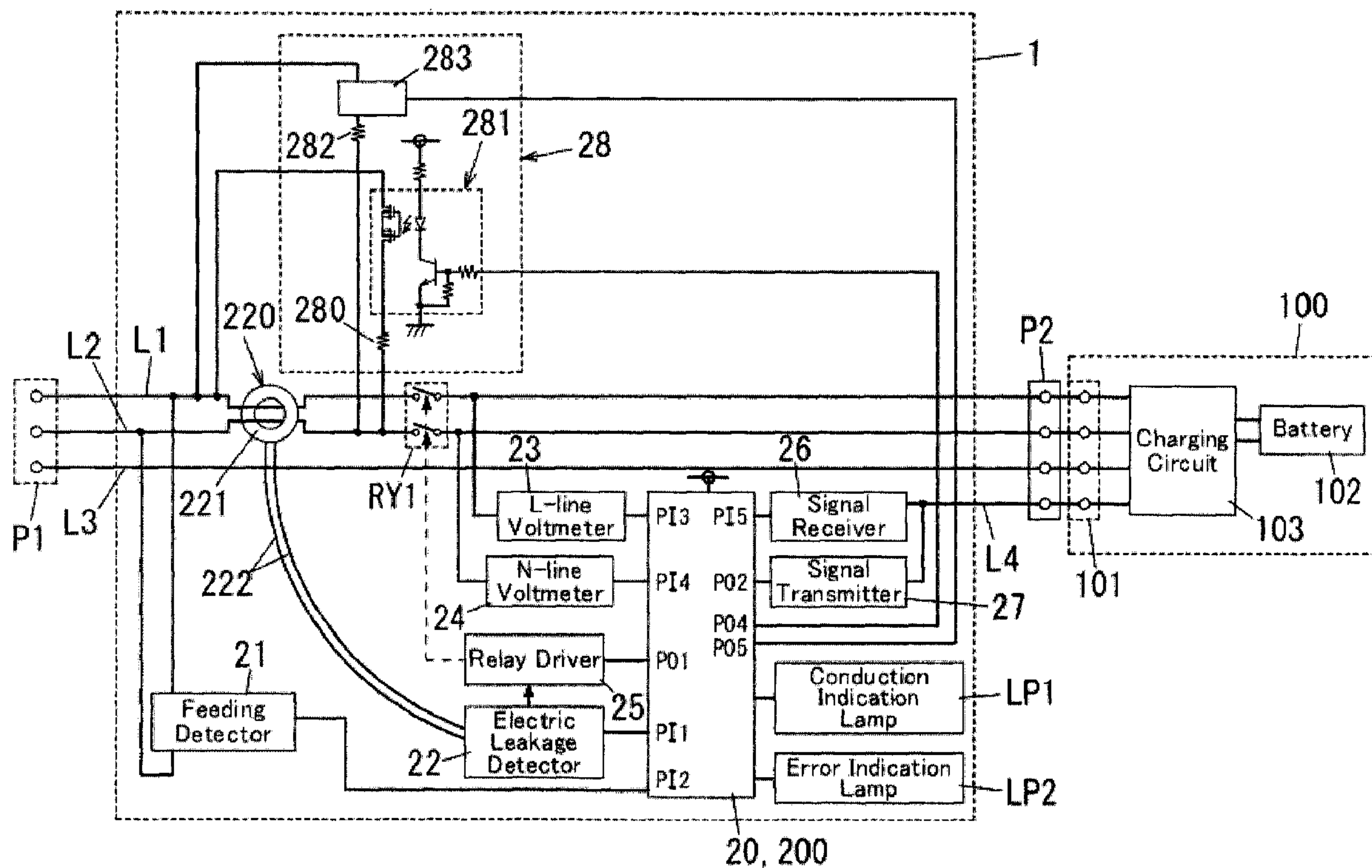




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(54) **Titre : DISPOSITIF DE PROTECTION CONTRE LES FUITES ELECTRIQUES ET DISPOSITIF DE COMMANDE D'ALIMENTATION**
 (54) **Title: ELECTRIC LEAKAGE PROTECTION DEVICE AND FEED CONTROL DEVICE**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

An object of the present invention would be to propose an electric leakage protection device (feed control device) capable of being adapt to two or more types of AC power supplies having different effective values of a power supply voltage by use of a common structure. The electric leakage protection device (feed control device) of one aspect according to the present invention includes an electric leakage detector (22), an electric leakage protector (25), and a self leakage generator (28). The electric leakage detector (22) outputs an electric leakage detection signal when a current leaked from a main circuit exceeds a threshold value. The electric

(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

leakage protector (25) opens a contact device (RY1) interposed in the main circuit when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. The self leakage generator (28) includes; a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component (280) and a first switch component (281) electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component (282) and a second switch component (283) electrically connected in series with each other. The first short circuit and the second short circuit are electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to a pair of power supply paths (L1, L2) constituting the main circuit.

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention would be to propose an electric leakage protection device (feed control device) capable of being adapt to two or more types of AC power supplies having different effective values of a power supply voltage by use of a common structure. The electric leakage protection device (feed control device) of one aspect according to the present invention includes an electric leakage detector (22), an electric leakage protector (25), and a self leakage generator (28). The electric leakage detector (22) outputs an electric leakage detection signal when a current leaked from a main circuit exceeds a threshold value. The electric leakage protector (25) opens a contact device (RY1) interposed in the main circuit when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. The self leakage generator (28) includes; a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component (280) and a first switch component (281) electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component (282) and a second switch component (283) electrically connected in series with each other. The first short circuit and the second short circuit are electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to a pair of power supply paths (L1, L2) constituting the main circuit.

DESCRIPTION

Title of Invention

ELECTRIC LEAKAGE PROTECTION DEVICE AND FEED CONTROL DEVICE

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Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to electric leakage protection devices and feed control devices, and particularly to an electric leakage protection device for detecting a leakage current from a circuit and then protecting the circuit and a feed control device which includes the electric leakage protection device and is configured to control supply of power to the circuit.

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Background Art

[0002] In the past, there has been proposed a feed control device as disclosed in Document 1 (JP 2013-128337 A). The feed control device disclosed in Document 1 includes a controller configured to close a relay interposed in a main circuit and control a self leakage generator to cause pseudo electric leakage in the main circuit in response to reception of a state notification signal indicative of allowance of charging from an electric vehicle (electric automobile). In this conventional example, operation check of an electric leakage detector is conducted under such a pseudo electric leakage state. When the electric leakage detector operates properly to open the relay as a result of the operation check, the controller closes the relay again and starts charging the electric vehicle.

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[0003] In contrast, when the electric leakage detector does operate properly as a result of the operation check, the controller causes self electric leakage by the self leakage generator after a lapse of a predetermined time period, thereby conducting the operation check of the electric leakage detector again. Accordingly, the conventional example disclosed in Document 1 conducts the operation check of the electric leakage detector again multiple times in order to reduce a possibility of false detection.

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[0004] The electric leakage detector of the conventional example includes a zero sequence current transformer to measure unbalance between currents flowing through a pair of power

supply paths constituting the main circuit. The electric leakage detector is configured to compare a secondary output of the zero sequence current transformer corresponding to a magnitude of the unbalance between currents, with a threshold value, and to determine that electric leakage has occurred when the secondary output exceeds the threshold value.

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[0005] Additionally, the self leakage generator of the conventional example includes a series circuit of a fixed resistor and a semiconductor switch, and the series circuit is electrically connected to the pair of power supply paths. Accordingly, the self leakage generator makes a short circuit between the pair of power supply paths by connecting them via the fixed resistor by turning on the semiconductor switch, and thereby cause unbalance between currents flowing through the pair of power supply paths, which leads to a pseudo electric leakage state (hereinafter, referred to as self electric leakage).

[0006] In a case of the self electric leakage caused by the self leakage generator, a magnitude of such an unbalance current flowing through the main circuit depends on a difference between electric potentials of the pair of power supply paths, which can be determined by the power supply voltage (effective value) of the AC power supply connected to the main circuit and the resistance of the fixed resistor of the self leakage generator.

[0007] Note that, the AC power supply has different power supply voltages depending on countries or regions (destinations), and may be classified into two major systems: a 100 V system and a 200 V system. In view of this, the self leakage generator of the conventional example is required to include a fixed resistor which is selected from the fixed resistor with the resistance corresponding to the power supply voltage of the 100 V system and the fixed resistor with the resistance corresponding to the power supply voltage of the 200 V system in accordance with a desired destination.

Summary of Invention

[0008] An object of the present invention would be to adapt to two or more types of AC power supplies having different effective values of a power supply voltage by use of a common structure.

[0009] The electric leakage protection device of one aspect according to the present invention includes an electric leakage detector, an electric leakage protector, and a self leakage generator. The electric leakage detector is configured to output an electric leakage detection signal, when a current leaked from a main circuit exceeds a threshold value. The electric leakage protector is configured to open a contact device interposed in the main circuit, when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. The self leakage generator includes; a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component and a first switch component electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component and a second switch component electrically connected in series with each other. The first short circuit and the second short circuit are electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to a pair of power supply paths constituting the main circuit.

[0010] The feed control device of one aspect according to the present invention includes: a main circuit including a pair of power supply paths; a contact device interposed in the main circuit; and the electric leakage protection device of the above aspect for protecting the main circuit.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0011] **FIG. 1** is a block diagram of a feed control device including an electric leakage protection device of one embodiment in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart for illustrating operation of the electric leakage protection device.

FIG. 3 is a partial flow chart for illustrating operation of the electric leakage protection device.

Description of Embodiments

[0012] The following description referring to **FIG. 1** and **FIG. 2** is made to a feed control device **1** including an electric leakage protection device of one embodiment according to the present invention. However, the electric leakage protection device according to the present invention may be provided to a device other than such a feed control devices.

[0013] The feed control device **1** is used to form power supply paths from an external power

supply such as a commercial AC power supply to a battery **102** included in an electric vehicle **100** and to control supply of power to the battery **102**.

5 [0014] The electric vehicle **100** includes the battery **102** which may be a secondary battery such as a lithium ion battery. Further, the electric vehicle **100** includes a charging circuit **103** configured to receive power from the external power supply via a charging inlet **101** and then charge the battery **102**. The electric vehicle **100** is configured to run by driving motors with power stored in the battery **102**. The electric vehicle **100** may be an electric automobile, a plug-in hybrid vehicle, or a fuel cell vehicle, for example.

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[0015] As shown in **FIG. 1**, the feed control device **1** includes a line (live line) **L1** serving as a conduction path for a live conductor (L phase), a line (neutral line) **L2** serving as a conduction path for a neutral conductor (N phase), and a line (ground line) **L3** serving as a conduction path for a ground conductor, between the external power supply (the commercial AC power supply) and the electric vehicle **100**. Note that, the live line (first power supply path) **L1** and the neutral line (second power supply path) **L2** constitute a pair of power supply paths (main circuit).

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[0016] There is a power supply side plug (first plug) **P1** electrically connected to first ends of the lines **L1** to **L3**. This power supply side plug **P1** is electrically connected, in a removable manner, to an outlet (for example, an electrical socket) electrically connected to the external power supply. Additionally, there is a vehicle side plug (second plug) **P2** electrically connected to second ends of the lines **L1** to **L3**. This vehicle side plug **P2** is electrically connected, in a removable manner, to the charging inlet **101** of the electric vehicle **100**.

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[0017] The feed control device **1** includes the electric leakage protection device, the main circuit (the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**) protected by the electric leakage protection device, a contact device (the relay **RY1**) provided to the main circuit, a relay driver **25** for opening and closing the contact device, and the controller **20**.

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[0018] The relay **RY1** includes a pair of relay contacts individually interposed in the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**. The relay **RY1** is controlled to close the relay contacts (that is, the relay **RY1** is turned on), which allows supply of power from the power supply side plug **P1** to

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the vehicle side plug **P2**.

[0019] The controller **20** may be realized by a microcontroller (hereinafter, abbreviated to "micro"), for example. The controller **20** is configured to perform entire control of the electric leakage protection device and the feed control device **1**. Accordingly, the controller **20** acts as a
 5 controller (electric leakage controller) **200** of the electric leakage protection device. However, the controller (electric leakage controller) **200** configured to perform entire control of the electric leakage protection device may be realized by hardware (for example, a micro) independent from the controller **20** of the feed control device **1**.

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[0020] Additionally, the feed control device **1** includes a feeding detector **21**, an L line voltmeter **23**, an N line voltmeter **24**, a signal receiver **26**, a signal transmitter **27**, a conduction indication lamp **LP1**, and an error indication lamp **LP2**. Note that, the feeding detector **21**, the L line voltmeter **23**, the N line voltmeter **24**, the signal receiver **26**, the signal transmitter **27**,
 15 the conduction indication lamp **LP1**, and the error indication lamp **LP2** are optional.

[0021] The feeding detector **21** is configured to determine whether power is supplied from the external power supply, by detecting zero crossing of a voltage (potential difference) between parts of the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2** between the relay **RY1** and the power supply
 20 side plug **P1**. When the feeding detector **21** determines that power has been supplied from the external power supply, the controller **20** may turn on the conduction indication lamp **LP1**.

[0022] Note that, the feeding detector **21** of the present embodiment is configured to determine whether the external power supply is a 100 V system or a 200 V system based on a peak value
 25 of the voltage, and then output a result of determination to the controller **20**. In other words, the feeding detector **21** serves as a voltmeter configured to measure a voltage applied between the pair of the power supply paths **L1** and **L2**. The voltmeter is configured to determine whether the voltage measured by the voltmeter corresponds to a first power supply voltage or a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage and then output a result of
 30 determination to the controller **20**. The first power supply voltage is a voltage corresponding to the external power supply (AC power supply) of the 100 V system, and the second power supply voltage is a voltage corresponding to the external power supply (AC power supply) of

the 200 V system. Note that, the feeding detector **21** is not necessarily configured to act as the voltmeter.

5 [0023] The L line voltmeter **23** is configured to determine whether a voltage of the live line **L1** (a potential difference between the live line **L1** and the ground line **L3**) between the relay **RY1** and the vehicle side plug **P2** (a secondary side of the relay **RY1**) is not smaller than a predetermined threshold value. The N line voltmeter **24** is configured to determine whether a voltage of the neutral line **L2** (a potential difference between the neutral line **L2** and the ground line **L3**) between the relay **RY1** and the vehicle side plug **P2** (the secondary side of the relay
10 **RY1**) is not lower than the predetermined threshold value.

[0024] The controller **20** is configured to determine that welding of the contact device (the relay contacts) has occurred, when at least one of the L line voltmeter **23** and the N line voltmeter detects a voltage equal to or larger than the threshold value while the contact device
15 (the relay **RY1**) is opened (turned off). It is preferable that the controller **20** turn on the error indication lamp **LP2** when determining that welding of the contact device has occurred.

[0025] The relay driver **25** is configured to control the relay **RY1** according to a control signal inputted from the controller **20** to thereby close (turn on) and open (turn off) the relay contacts.
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[0026] The signal receiver **26** is electrically connected to the electric vehicle **100** via a conduction path (hereinafter referred to as "signal line") **L4** which is provided in addition to the conduction paths **L1** to **L3**. The signal receiver **26** is configured to receive a control pilot signal (CPLT signal) transmitted through the signal line **L4** from the electric vehicle **100** and output
25 the received CPLT signal to an input port **PI5** of the controller **20**.

[0027] The signal transmitter **27** is configured to convert a transmission signal outputted from the output port **PO2** of the controller **20** into the CPLT signal and then transmit it to the electric vehicle **100**. Note that, the CPLT signal is well known as disclosed in Document 1, and
30 therefore detailed description thereof is omitted.

[0028] Note that, the controller **20** is configured to turn on the error indication lamp **LP2** to

make announcement when an electric leakage detector **22** which is described below has detected electric leakage or when abnormality (for example, welding) of the relay **RY1** has been detected.

5 [0029] The electric leakage protection device includes the electric leakage detector **22**, an electric leakage protector (a relay driver) **25**, and a self leakage generator **28**. Further, in the present embodiment, the electric leakage protection device includes the electric leakage controller **200**, the voltmeter (the feeding detector **21**), and the error indication lamp **LP2**.

10 [0030] The electric leakage detector **22** is configured to output an electric leakage detection signal when a leakage current flowing from the main circuit (that is, a current leaked from the main circuit) exceeds a threshold value. For example, the electric leakage detector **22** includes a zero sequence current transformer **220** and is configured to output the electric leakage detection signal when an output voltage of the zero sequence current transformer **220** proportional to the
15 leakage current flowing from the main circuit exceeds a threshold value.

[0031] The zero sequence current transformer **220** has the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2** inserted through a core **221** with a circular ring shape and is configured to output, from an output line (secondary winding) **222**, a voltage proportional to unbalance between currents
20 flowing through the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**. Note that, the electric leakage detection signal outputted from the electric leakage detector **22** is inputted into an input port **PI1** of the controller **20** and the relay driver **25**. The zero sequence current transformer **220** is positioned in relation to the pair of power supply paths **L1** and **L2** so as to be between a connection point between one of the pair of power supply paths **L1** and **L2** and the self leakage
25 generator **28** and the other of the pair of power supply paths **L1** and **L2** and the self leakage generator **28**. In **FIG. 1**, the self leakage generator **28** is connected to the first line **L1** at a point closer to the first plug **P1** than the zero sequence current transformer **220** is. Further, the self leakage generator **28** is connected to the second line **L2** at a point closer to the second plug **P2** than the zero sequence current transformer **220** is.

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[0032] When receiving the electric leakage detection signal, the relay driver **25** operates the relay **RY1** to open (turn off) the relay contacts. As understood from the above, the relay driver

25 functions as the electric leakage protector configured to open the contact device interposed in the main circuit when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. Accordingly, in the present embodiment, the relay driver **25** acts as the electric leakage protector.

5 [0033] The self leakage generator **28** includes a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component **280** and a first switch component **281** electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component **282** and a second switch component **283** electrically connected in series with each other. In other words, the first short circuit is a series circuit of the first electric resistance component **280** and
10 the first switch component **281**, and the second short circuit is a series circuit of the second electric resistance component **282** and the second switch component **283**.

[0034] The first electric resistance component **280** and the second electric resistance component **282** each may be a single resistor or a series circuit of two or more resistors. An
15 electric resistance of the first electric resistance component **280** may be equal to an electric resistance of the second electric resistance component **282**. Note that, it is preferable that the electric resistance (resistance) of the first electric resistance component **280** be smaller than the electric resistance (resistance) of the second electric resistance component **282**.

20 [0035] The first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** each may be an opto-isolated SSR (short for a solid state relay), for example. The first switch component **281** is turned on and off according to the control signal outputted from an output port **PO4** of the controller **20**. Similarly, the second switch component **283** is turned on and off according to the control signal outputted from an output port **PO5** of the controller **20**. Note that, the
25 aforementioned opto-isolated SSR is well-known and therefore detailed description of configuration and operation thereof is omitted. However, the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** each may not be limited to such an opto-isolated SSR.

[0036] The electric leakage controller **200** controls the self leakage generator **28**. In more detail,
30 the electric leakage controller **200** is configured to perform any one of a first process and a second process in accordance with a voltage measured by the voltmeter (the feeding detector) **21**.

[0037] The first process is defined as a process of turning on the first switch component **281** while turning off the second switch component **283**. The second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component **283** while turning off the first switch component **281**. The electric leakage controller **200** is configured to perform the first process when the voltage measured by the voltmeter (the feeding detector) **21** corresponds to the first power supply voltage. The electric leakage controller **200** is configured to perform the second process when the voltage measured by the voltmeter **21** corresponds to the second power supply voltage. In summary, the first process corresponds to the first power supply voltage, and the second process corresponds to the second power supply voltage.

[0038] The first short circuit is configured to cause a short circuit between the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2** by interconnecting them through the first electric resistance component **280** when the controller **20** turns on the first switch component **281**. When the first short circuit causes a short circuit between the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**, the leakage current (hereinafter referred to as a self leakage current) which depends on the electric resistance of the first electric resistance component **280** and the power supply voltage flows through the first short circuit. For example, when the external power supply has the power supply voltage (effective value) of 120 V, the self leakage current equal to or smaller than 7.5 mA flows provided that the first electric resistance component **280** has the resistance equal to or larger than 16 k Ω .

[0039] The second short circuit is configured to cause a short circuit between the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2** by interconnecting them through the second electric resistance component **282** when the controller **20** turns on the second switch component **283**. When the second short circuit causes a short circuit between the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**, the leakage current (self leakage current) which depends on the electric resistance of the second electric resistance component **282** and the power supply voltage flows through the second short circuit. For example, when the external power supply has the power supply voltage (effective value) of 240 V, the self leakage current equal to or smaller than 7.5 mA flows provided that the second electric resistance component **282** has the resistance equal to or larger than 32 k Ω .

[0040] The resistance of the self leakage generator **28** for the first process and the resistance of the self leakage generator **28** for the second process are selected so as to cause a flow of a self leakage current equal to or smaller than a prescribed value (7.5 mA), for example. Note that, the prescribed value is selected appropriately in consideration of environment where the electric leakage protection device is supposed to be used.

[0041] The controller **20** determines that a self leakage test has been passed, when the electric leakage detection signal is inputted into the input port **PI1** under as situation where the self leakage generator **28** causes a self leakage (causes a flow of the self leakage current). In contrast, the controller **20** determines that the self leakage test has not been passed, when the electric leakage detection signal is not inputted into the input port **PI1** under the above situation. In addition, the controller **20** turns on the error indication lamp **LP2** when determining that the self leakage test has not been passed.

[0042] As apparent from the above, the electric leakage controller **200** is configured to conduct the self leakage test. The electric leakage controller configured to, in the self leakage test, determine that the self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in response to the voltage measured by the voltmeter (the feeding detector) **21**. The electric leakage controller **200** is configured to light the error indication lamp **LP2**, when determining that the self leakage test has not been passed.

[0043] Next, operation of the feed control device **1** of the present embodiment is described with reference to a flow chart of **FIG. 2**. Note that, in an initial state, each of the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** of the self leakage generator **28** is off.

[0044] When the power supply side plug **P1** is connected to the inlet of the external power supply, AC power supply is supplied from the external power supply to the feed control device **1** and thus the feed control device **1** starts to operate (step **S1**). While the vehicle side plug **P2** is not connected to the charging inlet of the electric vehicle **100**, the controller **20** determines that the vehicle side plug **P2** has not been connected to the electric vehicle **100** yet, based on the CPLT signal received by the signal receiver **26**. Note that, the controller **20** keeps the relay

RY1 off providing that the vehicle side plug **P2** is not connected to the electric vehicle **100**.

[0045] The controller **20** determines whether the power supply voltage measured by the feeding detector **21** corresponds to the 100 V system (step **S2**). If the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system (step **S2**; yes), the controller **20** outputs the control signal from the output port **PO4**, thereby turning on the first switch component **281** (step **S3**). In contrast, if the power supply voltage measured by the feeding detector **21** corresponds to the 200 V system (step **S2**; no), the controller **20** outputs the control signal from the output port **PO5**, thereby turning on the second switch component **283** (step **S4**). Note that, the controller **20** may store a result of determination with regard to the power supply voltage in a built-in memory, for example.

[0046] When the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283** is turned on, the self leakage current flows from the main circuit, and thus self leakage occurs. In this regard, the controller **20** selects the resistance (from the resistances of the first electric resistance component **280** and the second electric resistance component **282**) for a path of short circuiting the main circuit, in accordance with the power supply voltage of the external power supply. In more detail, the controller **20** selects the first electric resistance component **280** with a relatively small resistance when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system, and selects the second electric resistance component **282** with a relatively large resistance when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system. Accordingly, one of the two electric resistance components **280** and **282** is selected in accordance with the power supply voltage. Therefore, almost the same self leakage current can flow from the main circuit in one case where the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system and the other case where the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system.

[0047] Providing that the electric leakage detector **22** operates properly, it detects the self leakage and then outputs the electric leakage detection signal. The controller **20** determines that the self leakage test has been passed, providing that the electric leakage detection signal is inputted into the input port **PI1** within the predetermined time period (for example, a few seconds to more than ten but less than twenty seconds) from time of turning on the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283**, and determines that the self leakage test has not been passed, providing that the electric leakage detection signal is inputted into the

input port **PI1** within the predetermined time period from that time (step **S5**). When the self leakage test is determined to have not been passed, the controller **20** lights the error indication lamp **LP2** to conduct error indication (step **S15**). Note that, after a lapse of the predetermined time period, the controller **20** turns off the switch component (the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283**) which has been turned on at step **S3** or step **S4**.

[0048] When the self leakage test is determined to have been passed, the controller **20** waits until the vehicle side plug **P2** is electrically connected to the charging inlet of the electric vehicle **100** (step **S6**). When receiving, by the signal receiver **26**, the CPLT signal indicating that the vehicle side plug **P2** has been electrically connected to the charging inlet (step **S6**; yes), the controller **20** instructs the self leakage generator **28** to cause self leakage again (step **S7**). In this regard, the controller **20** conducts the self leakage test by turning on the switch component (the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283**) corresponding to the result of the determination with regard to the power supply voltage stored in the built-in memory.

[0049] Note that, there may be a probability that the feed control device **1** of the present embodiment is left in a state where the power supply side plug **P1** is still electrically connected to the inlet of the external power supply. In such a case, a step of connecting the power supply side plug **P1** to the inlet may be omitted from the charging process, and thus the charging process may start from a step of electrically connecting the vehicle side plug **P2** to the charging inlet **101** of the electric vehicle **100**. In this case, the controller **20** starts the process from step **S6**. Accordingly, the controller **20** conducts the self leakage test even if the vehicle side plug **P2** is electrically connected to the charging inlet. Thereby, it is possible to certainly confirm that the electric leakage detector **22** can operate properly, before charging the electric vehicle **100**.

[0050] When the self leakage test is determined to have been passed (step **S8**; yes), the controller **20** waits until the signal receiver **26** receives from the electric vehicle **100** the CPLT signal indicative of permission of charging (step **S8**). In contrast, when the self leakage test is determined to have not been passed, the controller **20** lights the error indication lamp **LP2** to conduct error indication (step **S15**). Note that, after a lapse of the predetermined time period, the controller **20** turns off the switch component (the first switch component **281** or the second

switch component **283**) which has been turned on at step **S7**.

[**0051**] When receiving by the signal receiver **26** the CPLT signal indicative of permission of charging (step **S9**; yes), the controller **20** outputs the control signal from the output port **PO1** to control the relay driver **25** to turn on the relay **RY1** (step **S10**). Thereafter, the controller **20** instructs the self leakage generator **28** to cause self leakage again to conduct the self leakage test. In this regard, the controller **20** conducts the self leakage test by turning on the switch component (the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283**) corresponding to the result of the determination with regard to the power supply voltage stored in the built-in memory. When the self leakage test is determined to have not been passed, the controller **20** lights the error indication lamp **LP2** to conduct error indication (step **S15**). Note that, after a lapse of the predetermined time period, the controller **20** turns off the switch component (the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283**) which has been turned on at step **S10**.

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[**0052**] Note that, the charging circuit **103** of the electric vehicle **100** may conduct timer-based operation. In such timer-based operation, the charging circuit **103** starts charging at designated start time by transmitting the CPLT signal indicative of permission of charging, and ends the charging at designated finish time by transmitting the CPLT signal indicative stop of charging. When the charging circuit **103** of the electric vehicle **100** conducts the timer-based operation, in some cases the controller **20** may result in waiting the CPLT signal indicating permission of charging from the electric vehicle **100** for several hours to more than ten but less than twenty hours. In this case, abnormality may occur in the electric leakage detector **22** while waiting for the signal. Accordingly, the controller **20** conducts the self leakage test even if receiving by the signal receiver **26** the CPLT signal indicative of permission of charging. Thereby, it is possible to certainly confirm that the electric leakage detector **22** can operate properly, before charging the electric vehicle **100**.

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[**0053**] When the electric leakage detector **22** operates properly, it detects self electric leakage and outputs the electric leakage detection signal to the controller **20**. Therefore, the controller **20** determines that the self leakage test has been passed when the electric leakage detection signal is inputted into the input port **PI1** (step **S11**; yes). Further, when detecting self electric

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leakage, the electric leakage detector **22** operates the relay driver **25** to turn off the relay **RY1** (step **S12**). Both the voltages of the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2** become zero on a secondary side of the relay **RY1** providing that the relay contacts of the relay **RY1** are not welded. The controller **20** determines whether the relay contacts have been welded, based on measurement results of the L line voltmeter **23** and the N line voltmeter **24** (**S13**). In more detail, when a voltage equal to or larger than the threshold value is developed on the secondary side of the relay **RY1**, the controller **20** determines that the relay contacts have been welded and then turns on the error indication lamp **LP2** (step **S15**). In contrast, when the voltage developed on the secondary side of the relay **RY1** is smaller than the threshold value, the controller **20** determines that the relay contacts have not been welded (that is, opened) and then controls the relay driver **25** to turn on the relay **RY1** (step **S14**). Note that, it is preferable that the controller **20** differentiate between patterns of lighting the error indication lamp **LP2** for a case where the self leakage test has not been passed and another case where the relay contacts are determined to have been welded.

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[0054] Note that, when both the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** are turned on, a parallel circuit of the first electric resistance component **280** and the second electric resistance component **282** is electrically connected between the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**. In this case, a combined resistance of the parallel circuit is smaller than the resistance of the first electric resistance component **280** and the resistance and the second electric resistance component **282**. Therefore, when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system, both the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** are turned on. In contrast, when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system, either the first switch component **281** or the second switch component **283** may be turned on. In this case, the first electric resistance component **280** and the second electric resistance component **282** may have the same resistance.

[0055] In other words, in a case where the resistance of the first electric resistance component **280** and the resistance of the second electric resistance component **282** are equal to each other, the first process may be defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283**, and the second process may be defined as a process of turning on the second switch component **283** while turning off the first switch component **281**.

[0056] The feeding detector **21** is not necessarily configured to act as the voltmeter (in other words, the electric leakage protection device may not include the voltmeter). In such a case, the electric leakage controller **200** performs a determining process of determining the power supply voltage applied to the main circuit. In the determining process, the electric leakage controller **200** determines that the power supply voltage of the power supply connected to the main circuit is the first power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing the first process but failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process. In the determining process, the electric leakage controller **200** determines that the power supply voltage of the power supply connected to the main circuit is the second power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process and also succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process. The electric leakage controller **200** determines that the self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in accordance with a result of the determining process. In summary, in a case where the result of the determining process indicates that the power supply voltage is the first power supply voltage, the electric leakage controller **200** performs the first process in the self leakage test. The electric leakage controller **200** determines that the self leakage test has not been passed providing that the electric leakage detection signal is obtained within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process. In contrast, in a case where the result of the determining process indicates that the power supply voltage is the second power supply voltage, the electric leakage controller **200** performs the second process in the self leakage test. The electric leakage controller **200** determines that the self leakage test has not been passed providing that the electric leakage detection signal is obtained within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process.

[0057] For example, as shown in the flow chart of **FIG. 3**, the feed control device **1** starts operating (step **SS1**) when the power supply side plug **P1** is connected to the inlet of the external power supply and then the external power supply supplies AC power to the feed

control device **1**. Accordingly, the controller **20** turns on the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** (step **SS2**).

[0058] When the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** are turned on, the self leakage current flows from the main circuit, which results in self electric leakage. The electric leakage detector **22** detects the self electric leakage and then outputs the electric leakage detection signal, providing that it operates properly. The controller **20** determines that the self leakage test has been passed when the electric leakage detection signal is inputted into the input port **PI1** within the predetermined time period, or the controller **20** determines that the self leakage test has not been passed when the electric leakage detection signal is not inputted into the input port **PI1** within the predetermined time period (step **SS3**). When the self leakage test is determined to have not been passed, the controller **20** turns on the error indication lamp **LP2** to conduct error indication (step **SS8**).

[0059] When the self leakage test is determined to have been passed, the controller **20** turns off the first switch component **281** and on the second switch component **283** (step **SS4**). When the electric leakage detector **22** operates properly and the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system, the electric leakage detector **22** detects the self electric leakage based on the self leakage current flowing through the second short circuit and outputs the electric leakage detection signal. The controller **20** determines that the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system when the electric leakage detection signal is inputted within the predetermined time period (step **SS6**). In contrast, when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system, the self leakage current flowing through the second short circuit is relatively small. Consequently, the electric leakage detector **22** fails to detect self electric leakage and does not output the electric leakage detection signal. For this reason, the controller **20** determines that the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system, providing that the electric leakage detection signal is not inputted within the predetermined time period (step **SS7**). The controller **20** stores the result of determination with regard to the power supply voltage in its built-in memory, and performs the steps following step **S6** in **FIG. 2**. Note that, with regard to the steps following step **S6** in **FIG. 2**, it is preferable that the controller **20** turn on the first switch component **281** and the second switch component **283** to cause self electric leakage when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 100 V system. Optionally, with regard to the steps

following step **S6** in **FIG. 2**, it is preferable that the controller **20** turn on the second switch component **283** only to cause self electric leakage when the power supply voltage corresponds to the 200 V system. Note that, description of the steps following step **S6** in **FIG. 2** is omitted to avoid redundancy.

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[**0060**] As described above, the electric leakage protection device of the present embodiment includes the electric leakage detector **22**, the electric leakage protector (the relay driver **25**), and the self leakage generator **28**. The electric leakage detector **22** is configured to output the electric leakage detection signal, when the current leaked from the main circuit exceeds the
10 threshold value. The electric leakage protector (the relay driver **25**) is configured to open the contact device (the relay **RY1**) interposed in the main circuit, when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. The self leakage generator **28** includes the first short circuit having the first electric resistance component **280** and the first switch component **281** electrically
15 connected in series with each other, and the second short circuit having the second electric resistance component **282** and the second switch component **283** electrically connected in series with each other. The first short circuit and the second short circuit are electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to the pair of power supply paths (the live line **L1** and the neutral line **L2**) constituting the main circuit.

[**0061**] Further, the feed control device **1** of the present embodiment includes the electric leakage protection device, the main circuit protected by the electric leakage protection device, and the controller **20** for opening and closing the contact device provided to the main circuit.

[**0062**] The electric leakage protection device (the feed control device **1**) of the present
25 embodiment is configured as above, and thereby, in contrast to the conventional example, can be adapted to two or more types of AC power supplies having different effective values of a power supply voltage by use of a common structure.

[**0063**] Additionally, in the electric leakage protection device (the feed control device **1**) of the
30 present embodiment, it is preferable that the resistance of the first electric resistance component **280** and the resistance of the second electric resistance component **282** be different from each other.

[0064] Further, it is preferable that the electric leakage protection device (the feed control device 1) of the present embodiment include the voltmeter (the feeding detector 21) configured to measure a voltage applied to the main circuit. Furthermore, it is preferable that the self leakage generator 28 be configured to turn on either the first switch component 281 or the second switch component 283 in accordance with the voltage measured by the voltmeter (the feeding detector 21).

[0065] As described above, the electric leakage protection device of the first aspect in accordance with the present invention includes an electric leakage detector (22), an electric leakage protector (25), and a self leakage generator (28). The electric leakage detector (22) is configured to output an electric leakage detection signal, when a current leaked from a main circuit exceeds a threshold value. The electric leakage protector (25) is configured to open a contact device (RY1) interposed in the main circuit, when receiving the electric leakage detection signal. The self leakage generator (28) includes a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component (280) and a first switch component (281) electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component (282) and a second switch component (283) electrically connected in series with each other. The first short circuit and the second short circuit are electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to a pair of power supply paths (L1 and L2) constituting the main circuit.

[0066] In the electric leakage protection device of the second aspect which would be realized in combination with the first aspect, the self leakage generator (28) is connected between the pair of power supply paths (L1 and L2).

[0067] In the electric leakage protection device of the third aspect which would be realized in combination with the first or second aspect, the electric leakage detector (22) is configured to measure a current leaked from the main circuit based on an output voltage of a zero sequence current transformer (220). The zero sequence current transformer (220) is positioned in relation to the pair of power supply paths (L1 and L2) so as to be between a connection point between one of the pair of power supply paths (L1 and L2) and the self leakage generator (28) and the

[0068] In the electric leakage protection device of the fourth aspect which would be realized in combination with any one of the fifth to third aspects, the electric leakage protection device further includes: a voltmeter (21) configured to measure a voltage applied across the main circuit; and a controller (200) configured to control the self leakage generator (28). The controller (200) is configured to perform any one of a first process and a second process in accordance with the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21). The first process is defined as a process of turning on the first switch component (281) while turning off the second switch component (283), or another process of turning on both the first switch component (281) and the second switch component (283). The second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component while turning off the first switch component (281).

[0069] In the electric leakage protection device of the fifth aspect which would be realized in combination with the fourth aspect, a resistance of the first electric resistance component (280) and a resistance of the second electric resistance component (282) are different from each other.

[0070] In the electric leakage protection device of the sixth aspect which would be realized in combination with the fifth aspect, the resistance of the first electric resistance component (280) is smaller than the resistance of the second electric resistance component (282). The controller (200) is configured to perform the first process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21) corresponds to a first power supply voltage. The controller (200) is configured to perform the second process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21) corresponds to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage.

[0071] In the electric leakage protection device of the seventh aspect which would be realized in combination with the fourth aspect, a resistance of the first electric resistance component (280) and a resistance of the second electric resistance component (282) are equal to each other. The controller (200) is configured to perform the first process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21) corresponds to a first power supply voltage. The controller (200) is configured to perform the second process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21) corresponds to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage. The first process is defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component (281) and the second switch component (283).

second process is defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component (281) and the second switch component (283).

5 [0072] In the electric leakage protection device of the eighth aspect which would be realized in combination with any one of the fourth to seventh aspects, the controller (200) is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in response to the voltage measured by the voltmeter (21).

10 [0073] In the electric leakage protection device of the ninth aspect which would be realized in combination with the eighth aspect, the electric leakage protection device further includes an error indication lamp. The controller (200) is configured to light the error indication lamp, when determining that the self leakage test has not been passed.

15 [0074] The electric leakage protection device of the tenth aspect would be realized in combination with any one of the first to third aspects and further includes a controller (200) configured to control the self leakage generator (28). The controller (200) is configured to perform a first process corresponding to a first power supply voltage and a second process corresponding to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage. A
20 resistance of the first electric resistance component (280) is smaller than a resistance of the second electric resistance component (282). The first process is defined as a process of turning on the first switch component (281) while turning off the second switch component (283), or another process of turning on both the first switch component (281) and the second switch component (283). The second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch
25 component while turning off the first switch component (281). The controller (200) is configured to perform a determining process of determining a power supply voltage of a power supply connected to the main circuit. The controller (200) is configured to, in the determining process, determine that the power supply voltage is the first power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period
30 from time of performing the first process but failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process, and determine that the power supply voltage is the second power supply voltage when succeeding

in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process and also succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process. The controller (200) is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in accordance with a result of the determining process.

[0075] The electric leakage protection device of the eleventh aspect would be realized in combination with any one of the first to third aspects and further includes a controller (200) configured to control the self leakage generator (28). The controller (200) is configured to perform a first process corresponding to a first power supply voltage and a second process corresponding to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage. A resistance of the first electric resistance component (280) is equal to a resistance of the second electric resistance component (282). The first process is defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component (281) and the second switch component (283). The second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component (283) while turning off the first switch component (281). The controller (200) is configured to perform a determining process of determining a power supply voltage of a power supply connected to the main circuit. The controller (200) is configured to, in the determining process, determine that the power supply voltage is the first power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing the first process but failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process, and determine that the power supply voltage is the second power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process and also succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process. The controller (200) is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in accordance with a result of the determining process.

[0076] The feed control device of the twelfth aspect in accordance with the present invention includes: a main circuit including a pair of power supply paths (L1 and L2); a contact device (RY1) interposed in the main circuit; and the electric leakage protection device of any one of the first to eleventh aspects for protecting the main circuit.

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[0077] The electric leakage protection device and the feed control device of aspects according to the present invention can be adapted to two or more types of AC power supplies having different effective values of a power supply voltage by use of a common structure.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An electric leakage protection device, comprising:

an electric leakage detector configured to output an electric leakage detection signal, when a current leaked from a main circuit exceeds a threshold value;

an electric leakage protector configured to open a contact device interposed in the main circuit, when receiving the electric leakage detection signal; and

a self leakage generator including a first short circuit having a first electric resistance component and a first switch component electrically connected in series with each other, and a second short circuit having a second electric resistance component and a second switch component electrically connected in series with each other,

the first short circuit and the second short circuit being electrically connected in parallel with each other with regard to a pair of power supply paths constituting the main circuit.

2. The electric leakage protection device of claim **1**, wherein

the self leakage generator is connected between the pair of power supply paths.

3. The electric leakage protection device of claim **1** or **2**, wherein:

the electric leakage detector is configured to measure a current leaked from the main circuit based on an output voltage of a zero sequence current transformer; and

the zero sequence current transformer is positioned in relation to the pair of power supply paths so as to be between a connection point between one of the pair of power supply paths and the self leakage generator and the other of the pair of power supply paths and the self leakage generator.

4. The electric leakage protection device of any one of claims **1** to **3**, further comprising:

a voltmeter configured to measure a voltage applied across the main circuit; and

a controller configured to control the self leakage generator,
wherein:

the controller is configured to perform any one of a first process and a second process in accordance with the voltage measured by the voltmeter;

the first process is defined as a process of turning on the first switch component while turning off the second switch component, or another process of turning on both the first switch component and the second switch component; and

the second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component while turning off the first switch component.

5. The electric leakage protection device of claim 4, wherein

a resistance of the first electric resistance component and a resistance of the second electric resistance component are different from each other.

6. The electric leakage protection device of claim 5, wherein:

the resistance of the first electric resistance component is smaller than the resistance of the second electric resistance component;

the controller is configured to perform the first process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter corresponds to a first power supply voltage; and

the controller is configured to perform the second process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter corresponds to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage.

7. The electric leakage protection device of claim 4, wherein

a resistance of the first electric resistance component and a resistance of the second electric resistance component are equal to each other;

the controller is configured to perform the first process, when the voltage measured by the voltmeter corresponds to a first power supply voltage;

the controller is configured to perform the second process, when the voltage

measured by the voltmeter corresponds to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage; and

the first process is defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component and the second switch component.

8. The electric leakage protection device of any one of claims **4** to **7**, wherein

the controller is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in response to the voltage measured by the voltmeter.

9. The electric leakage protection device of claim **8**, further comprising: an error indication lamp,

wherein the controller is configured to light the error indication lamp, when determining that the self leakage test has not been passed.

10. The electric leakage protection device of any one of claims **1** to **3**, further comprising a controller configured to control the self leakage generator,

wherein:

the controller is configured to perform a first process corresponding to a first power supply voltage and a second process corresponding to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage;

a resistance of the first electric resistance component is smaller than a resistance of the second electric resistance component;

the first process is defined as a process of turning on the first switch component while turning off the second switch component, or another process of turning on both the first switch component and the second switch component;

the second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component while turning off the first switch component;

the controller is configured to perform a determining process of determining a power supply voltage of a power supply connected to the main circuit;

the controller is configured to, in the determining process, determine that the power supply voltage is the first power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing the first process but failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process, and determine that the power supply voltage is the second power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process and also succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process; and

the controller is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in accordance with a result of the determining process.

11. The electric leakage protection device of any one of claims **1** to **3**, further comprising a controller configured to control the self leakage generator,

wherein:

the controller is configured to perform a first process corresponding to a first power supply voltage and a second process corresponding to a second power supply voltage higher than the first power supply voltage;

a resistance of the first electric resistance component is equal to a resistance of the second electric resistance component;

the first process is defined as a process of turning on both the first switch component and the second switch component;

the second process is defined as a process of turning on the second switch component while turning off the first switch component;

the controller is configured to perform a determining process of determining a power supply voltage of a power supply connected to the main circuit;

the controller is configured to, in the determining process, determine that the power supply voltage is the first power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within a predetermined time period from time of performing the first process but failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process, and determine that the power supply voltage is the second power supply voltage when succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the first process and also succeeding in receiving the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing the second process; and

the controller is configured to determine that a self leakage test has not been passed, when failing to receive the electric leakage detection signal within the predetermined time period from time of performing either the first process or the second process in accordance with a result of the determining process.

12. A feed control device, comprising:

a main circuit including a pair of power supply paths;

a contact device interposed in the main circuit; and

the electric leakage protection device of any one of claims **1** to **11** for protecting the main circuit.

FIG. 1

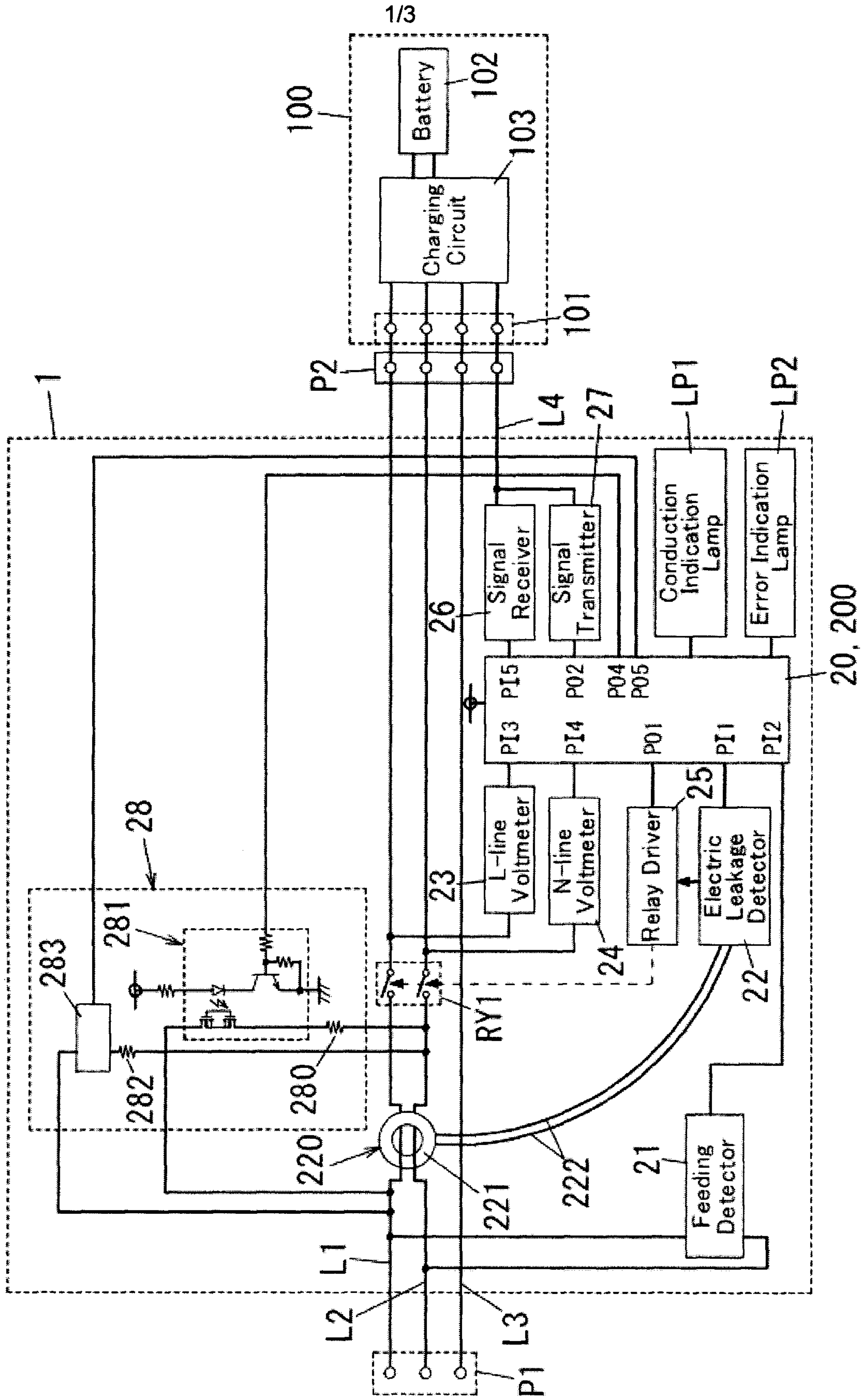


FIG. 2

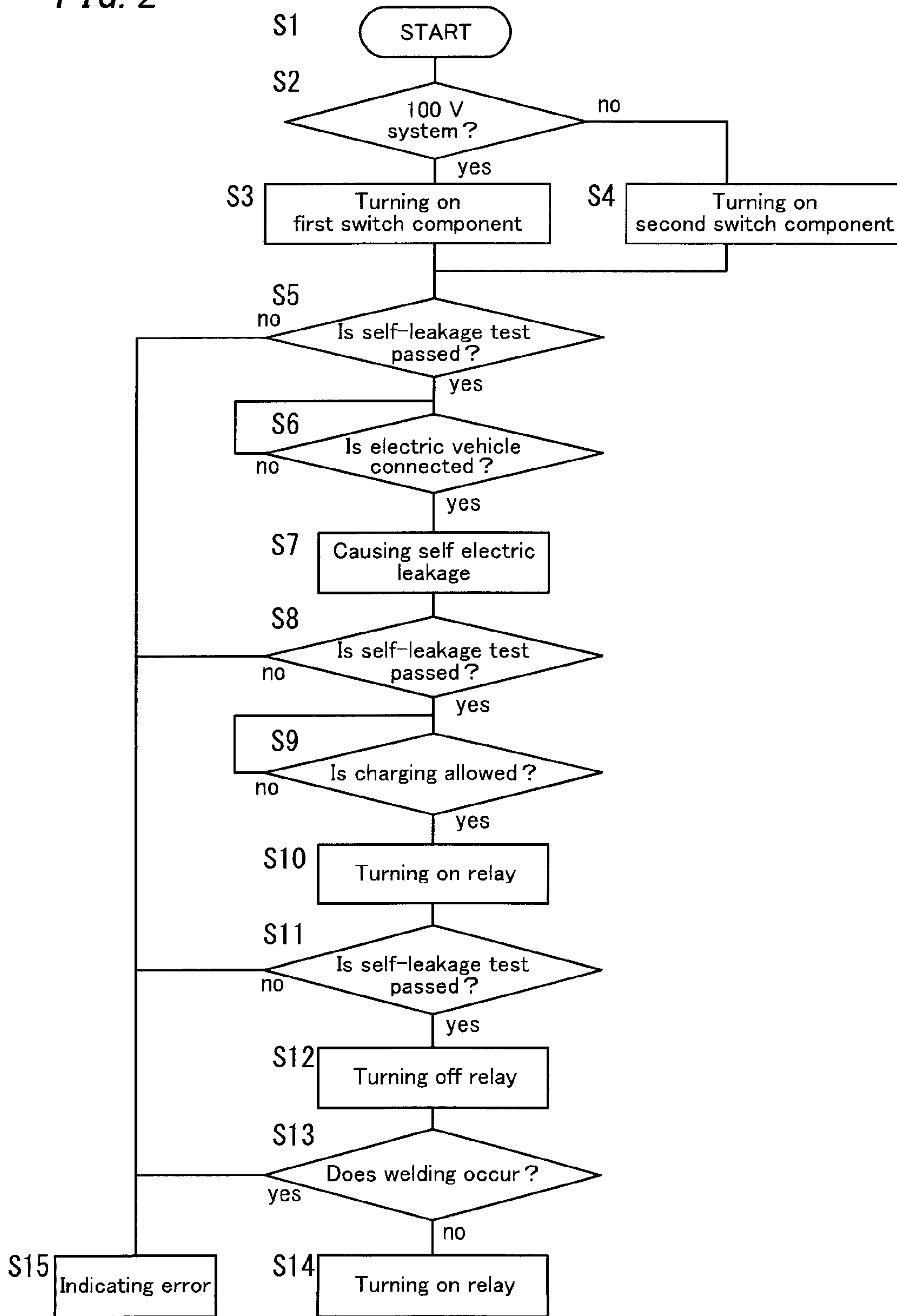


FIG. 3

