Safety Notice
Health and Safety Alert Notice 02/02

Precautionary measures to be taken when operating Air Break Switch Disconnectors

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
Paul Mursell
Senior Electrical Engineer
Lighting and Power
Specialist Services
Sutton Coldfield
Direct Dialling 0121 311 2135
Mil (9)4421 2135
e-mail: paul.mursell@de.mod.uk

SAFETY ALERT AUTHORISED BY:

Date: 9th September 2002

DEFENCE ESTATES
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT NOTICES -
A CUMULATIVE LIST FOR 2002

If missing copies are required, please contact your TLBH distribution point in the first instance.

Alternatively, single copies may be requested from:

Defence Estates
Corporate Information Services
Blakemore Drive
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 7RL

STD 0121-311 + extn or Mil (9)4421+ extn:

Tel: 3648/3744
Fax: 2190

A full list of DE, MOD and PSA publications which are relevant to works activities on the Defence Estate are contained in the DE Technical Publications Index (TPI). For MOD employees copies of the TPI are available through your TLBH works focal points. Consultants and Contractors should obtain copies from The Stationery Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/01</td>
<td>HSE Press Release. Action on ductile iron gas mains replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/02</td>
<td>Precautionary measures to be taken when operating Air Break Switch Disconnectors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health and Safety Alert Notice 02/02

Precautionary measures to be taken when operating Air Break Switch Disconnectors

INTRODUCTION

1. THE CONTENTS OF THIS SAFETY ALERT ARE TO SECURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974.

2. This Safety Alert is for the attention of Commanding Officers, Chief Executives, Heads of Establishment, Property Managers, Defence Lands Agents, Establishment Works Consultants (EWCs), Works Services Managers (WSMs), Authorising Engineers, Authorised Persons and Contractors involved in works for MOD.

3. This Safety Alert is to be read by all persons involved with any works associated with the equipment that is the subject of this Safety Alert.

4. The Property Manager or the appropriate MOD Officer shall arrange for the EWC and WSM to carry out all actions in accordance with this Safety Alert.

5. No work involving expenditure on an MOD account is to be carried out without authority from the Property Manager or the appropriate MOD officer for that location or facility.

6. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with MOD Safety Rules and Procedures, as applicable.

7. Defects are to be immediately reported to the Property Manager or appropriate MOD Officer, who must ensure that appropriate operating restrictions on the equipment that is the subject of this Safety Alert are applied.

8. For MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF), the responsibilities of Property Manager, EWC and WSM are jointly held by the USVF and DE(USF). At base level, this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Safety Alert. Where this Safety Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, a DE(USF) Code of Practice section will be issued.
Health and Safety Alert Notice 02/02

REQUIREMENT

9. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE TO ENSURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PASSED TO THEIR PROPERTY MANAGERS OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS WITHOUT DELAY.

10. This Safety Alert applies to the operation of all overhead switchgear (irrespective of voltage level), which is operated mechanically/electro mechanically (i.e. by switch handle or push button etc) from the base of the support.

11. Rod operated devices such as pole mounted circuit breakers and rural air break switches are NOT affected by this restriction.

12. Prior to operation of any affected piece of switchgear, the switchgear is to be inspected from ground level by a competent person with specific attention paid to the following:

   a. Presence and condition of support insulators.
   b. Presence and condition of supporting metalwork.
   c. Condition of actuating mechanism.
   d. Presence and condition of earth connection.
   e. Presence and condition of earth mat.

13. If there is any doubt about the condition of any of the above components, the switchgear should not be operated live.

BACKGROUND

14. Electricity Association SOP 2002/0294/00 notified a fatality that occurred during the operation of a South Wales Switchgear ABSD.

15. The fatality occurred during restoration of supplies, subsequent to a lightning strike.

16. The utility concerned have placed a blanket restriction on the live operation of all affected equipment as a precautionary measure.

END OF SAFETY ALERT