High voltage 11 kV electricity distribution equipment: Lucy FRMU24 Test Probes - suspension of normal operational practice

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT: Industrial Processes Group
Technical Standards Directorate
Sutton Coldfield Mil extn 2069
Group
Direct Dialling 0121 311 2069

NOTICE AUTHORISED BY: P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes

Date:
Safety Notice 98/20

High voltage 11 kV electricity distribution equipment: Lucy
FRMU24 Test Probes.

INTRODUCTION

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

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

4. 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.

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

6. The Co-ordinating Authorised Person, or other responsible person, is to notify the
   Property Manager:
(222,571),(803,759)

   of the location of any equipment which exists on the Establishment and is the
   subject of this Notice as soon as it has been identified;

   and

   when the relevant modifications are completed, that the appropriate remedial
   action has been carried out.

7. Defects are to be immediately reported to the Property Manager and the applicable
   Authorising Engineer who must impose appropriate operating restrictions on the
   equipment that is the subject of this Notice, until remedial action is completed.

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 DEO(USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take
   appropriate action to implement the contents of this Notice. Where this Notice
   contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, a DEO(USF)
   Code of Practice section will be issued.

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

10. The use of Lucy FRMU24 Test Probes with a metal baseplate is prohibited with immediate effect.

11. Further information may be obtained from the manufacturers W Lucy & Co Ltd at Oxford - Ken Coates 01865-311411.

BACKGROUND

12. An Electricity Association Notice has been received imposing a suspension of operational practice on the use of Lucy FRMU24 Test Probes with a metal baseplate. An incident occurred during pressure testing where a set of test probes flashed over within the tank of the ring main unit. The flashover occurred from near the top of the bushing under the metal baseplate to the side of the switch tank.

13. The test probes for this unit were redesigned in 1986/87 such that the metal baseplate was replaced by an insulated baseplate similar in colour to the bushings themselves.

14. The normal operational practice of these test probes is under investigation and as a consequence they are to be withdrawn from service until such time as the investigation is complete and a conclusion reached.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE