Safety Notice

Health and Safety Warning Notice 98/19

Low voltage electricity distribution equipment
Merlin Gerin ST type control units

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
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NOTICE AUTHORISED BY:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes

Date:
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Low voltage electricity distribution equipment Merlin Gerin ST type control units

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:

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

10. The attached information issued by Groupe Schneider is to be drawn to the attention of Authorised Persons (Electrical) operating switchgear fitted with Merlin Gerin ST type control units. Where such control units are found to be in use on a MOD site, the Property Manager is to arrange for Groupe Schneider to be contacted and arrangements made for the appropriate upgrade to be carried out.

BACKGROUND

11. The attached information issued by Groupe Schneider draws attention to the fact that: "A small risk of potential operating problems has been detected with ST type control units that were fitted to the higher rating Compact MCCBs over 800A and Masterpact ACBs between 1987 and 1993. Over the next two years Groupe Schneider will carry out an upgrade to these devices free of charge".

END OF SAFETY NOTICE