Safety Notice

Health and Safety Warning Notice 98/10

Electrical equipment: Privately owned electrical appliances

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
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NOTICE AUTHORISED BY:
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Date:

DEFENCE ESTATE ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Safety Notice
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Privately Owned Electrical Appliances

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, or other responsible person, 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 Safety Notice. Where this Notice contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, a DEO(USF) Code of Practice section will be issued.

REQUIREMENT
Safety Notice 98/10

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

10. The MOD cannot guarantee that privately owned electrical appliances held in accommodation premises, including married quarters, are safe. Contractor’s personnel are to exercise due care when moving or handling privately owned electrical appliances. The owner/occupier is to be requested to switch off any privately owned electrical appliances prior to the appliances being moved/handled by contractors employees, for the purpose of undertaking works activities. The appliance is to be switched off from the source of electrical power and disconnected or isolated. It may also be necessary, in some instances, to disconnect associated plumbing, drainage and ductwork.

BACKGROUND

11. An incident has occurred where a contractor’s employee has received an electric shock from a faulty, privately owned electrical appliance (washing machine). The casing of the appliance had become ‘live’ due to a fault with the wiring of the machine.

Privately owned electrical appliances are likely to be encountered within married quarters and other accommodation buildings. This equipment is unlikely to have been tested/inspected under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (the MOD has no legal obligation for the testing and inspection of this equipment as it is privately owned by the occupier and not supplied by the MOD for use at work) and may, therefore, fail to meet the legal standards required for work equipment.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE