Safety Notice

Health and Safety Warning Notice 98/09

High voltage 11 kV electricity distribution equipment: Crompton & Parkinson UIDE Oil Switches

SUBJECT CONTACT POINT:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes
Technical Standards Directorate
Sutton Coldfield Mil extn 2169
Direct Dialling 0121 311 2169

NOTICE AUTHORISED BY:
P D MEAKIN
AD Industrial Processes

Date:

DEFENCE ESTATE ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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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.
Safety Notice 98/09

REQUIREMENT

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

10. No persons are to be permitted to carry out any live switching on the equipment that is the subject of this Notice until the test spout grommets have been inspected, defective grommets removed, and this operational restriction lifted by the Authorising Engineer, or other responsible person.

RECOMMENDATION

12. The Electricity Association advice is that the yellow phase test spout grommet should be retained and used to guide the test probes, and the red and blue phase test spout grommets should be removed completely.

BACKGROUND

13. An Electricity Association Notice has been received advising of a suspension of operating practice following a number of defective grommets becoming dislodged, falling into the oil switch tank and jamming the mechanism.

14. Beneath the test spout cover there should be three grommets around the holes where the test probes are inserted. There is one of these grommeted holes for each phase. The grommet on the yellow phase should be intact and left in place. The grommets on the red and blue phases will each have about 30 mm cut out of them to facilitate the operation of the interlock system. These two grommets are held in place by glue to prevent them becoming loose and falling into the switch tank.

15. Over a period of time, the glue fixing the red and blue phase grommets has deteriorated and become significantly weakened. It is possible, once the glue has weakened, to dislodge the red and blue phase grommets when inserting the test probes. This usually results in the grommets falling into the tank and jamming the switch mechanism.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE