Safety Notice

Health and Safety Warning Notice 98/07

Low voltage electricity distribution equipment: Lucy Oxford 2 way fuse cabinet

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:
Safety Notice 98/07

Low voltage electricity distribution equipment: Lucy Oxford 2 way fuse cabinet

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
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 insert or remove any fuses on the equipment that is the subject of this Notice whilst any part of the cabinet is live without the use of:

   A Sanction for Work on or near Live Electrical Equipment (SRP01 refers)

   or

   A Sanction for Work on Live Equipment (MEEG Vol 8 Section 51 refers),

   and

   all of the appropriate associated precautionary measures. This must include adequate shielding to prevent the fuse, which is being inserted or removed, inadvertently coming into simultaneous contact with both live conductors and earthed metalwork.

BACKGROUND

11. An Electricity Association Notice has been received advising of an incident which occurred whilst a fuse carrier was being inserted into the cabinet. During this operation, the side of the fuse came into contact with both the live terminal and a metal flange connected to the earthed metal cabinet. The resulting explosion caused serious burns to the operative's hand. (He was not wearing gloves).

12. This cabinet does not meet the criteria for IP 2X, and consequently such actions constitute live working as defined under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, which forms part of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

13. This Notice is unlikely to have any significant impact on the MOD Estate since it is MOD policy not to carry out any live working on this type of equipment.

14. However, procedures do exist to enable such operations to take place in extreme circumstances, such as when the loss of electricity supply will almost certainly lead to the loss of human life.

END OF SAFETY NOTICE