



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Strategy & Policy Directorate

SAFETY ALERT

MEM Isolator Fused Type S315 AC 23 400A – Mechanism Failure

Number: SA 03/11

Strategy & Policy Directorate Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

Date of issue: 15 April 2011

Contact if different from Property Directorate Sponsor:

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Who Should Read this:

Top Level Budget Holders, Prime Contractors, Private Finance Initiatives, Public, Private Partnership and other traditionally procured contracts, Project Managers, Site Estate Authority Teams and Property Managers with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs), Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers Electrical, Authorised Persons Electrical and Designers, Installers and Maintainers of final electrical distribution equipment.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: When advised

Document Aim. To notify responsible persons of a mechanism failure on MEM Fused Isolator - Type S315 AC 400A - and advise on the additional measures to be taken in local isolation procedures when using this type of fused isolator.

1. Introduction

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.
- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) contractor to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD's Safety Rules & Procedures.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO (USF). At base level this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

2. Background

- a. On 24th March 2011 a Dangerous Incident Notice, DIN 2011/0014/00, was raised by the Energy Networks Association in relation to MEM Fused Isolator Type S315 AC 23 400A. Following a routine electrical isolation of a motor using this type of isolator the load side supply was found to be still live.
- b. On initial inspection it was thought that the fused isolator handle was in the OFF position and was locked and tagged. However, on closer inspection it was found that the fused isolator handle was not fully in the OFF position, although it was still possible to lock off the fused isolator.
- c. The defective isolator is to be examined by Eaton Electrical (successor to MEM) and, in due course, their findings will be published in the update to the above Dangerous Incident Notice.

3. Requirement

- a. With immediate effect maintenance staff are to review local isolation procedures for this type of fused isolator, which shall include the following measures:
 - When opening, pay particular attention to ensure that the handle completes its rotation, and the handle is positively located in the fully OFF position.
 - Test the load side to prove dead as part of the isolation.
 - Remove fuses for additional isolation.
- b. When possible Maintenance Management Organisations are to ensure that fused isolators of the same type on site are tested for correct operation.