



## SAFETY ALERT

### SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LOW VOLTAGE CAPACITORS – RECALL NOTICE

Number: SA 02/10

Property Directorate Sponsor: Robin A Cawthorne

Date of issue: 15 Jun 10

Contact if different from Property Directorate Sponsor:

Hom Limbu  
Senior Electrical Engineer  
Professional & Technical Services  
Defence Estates  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B75 7RL

94421 3214 / 0121 311 3214

Who Should Read this: CEstOs, Top Level Budget Holders, MOD Project Managers, Organisations appointing Authorising Engineers (AE) and Authorised Persons (AP) including: Commanding Officers/Heads of Establishment, Defence Estates (DE) Deputy Directors (Estates), DE Advisors, Site Estate Authority Teams and Maintenance Management Organisations and their Supply Chain organisations.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No expiry

Document aim. The aim of this Safety Alert is to bring to the attention of all responsible persons the recall notice issued by Schneider Electric for their Low Voltage Capacitors manufactured between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 and provide further information.

## 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 RPC/ 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 and Procedures.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DE (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 DE (USF) code of practice will be issued.

## 2. Background

- a. Schneider Electric has identified a safety issue affecting their low voltage capacitors manufactured between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. Schneider Electric has identified the potential for the capacitor envelope (casing) rupturing leading to fire within enclosures and has issued a Product Recall Notice. A copy of this Product Recall Notice is attached at Annex A.
- b. **Only products manufactured during the above dates are affected by this Recall Notice.**
- c. Low voltage capacitors could be found in:
  - (1) Uninterruptible Power Supplies: Optional Input Filters part of Galaxy 50Hz range [200-900kVA] and Galaxy PW 50Hz range [20-200kVA] (MGE-UPS, Schneider, APC MGE or APC by Schneider Electric).
  - (2) Power factor correction (PFC) equipment contained in low voltage switchboards.
  - (3) PFC equipment contained in Motor Control Centres.
  - (4) PFC equipment provided as stand-alone capacitor banks.
- d. Guidance on how these potentially affected capacitors can be identified is given at Annex B.
- e. In order to address this safety issue Schneider Electric are undertaking a replacement programme for all affected equipment.

## 3. Requirement

- a. With immediate effect determine if any of the affected low voltage capacitors are installed in equipment on your site through inspection of installation records and follow up site visit. If any of these capacitors are found on your site take the following action(s) as appropriate:
  - (1) For UPS Input Filter Applications: Contact the Technical Support Team at APC by Schneider Electric for further advice on Tel: 0800 2799 254 or email: [esupport.emeaen@apc.com](mailto:esupport.emeaen@apc.com). **Model and Serial numbers of the equipment must be provided.**

- (2) For PFC Applications: Complete the enclosed Confirmation of Product Recall Notice at Annex C and return to Schneider Electric at the address shown.
- (3) Where operational constraints permit PFC equipment may be isolated until the capacitors have been replaced. The decision to isolate the equipment should be based on risk assessment.

# **PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE**

**DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION**

**SUBJECT:** Schneider Electric Low Voltage Capacitors

**DATES of MANUFACTURE:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

As part of our ongoing Quality Improvement Process, we have identified a potential issue with our Low Voltage Capacitors where the safety system has not worked correctly.

This issue could result in the Capacitor Envelope (casing) breaking and leading to a fire within the enclosure.

Affected Low Voltage Capacitors could be found in:

- Stand-alone Capacitors Banks
- Low Voltage Switchboards
- Motor Control Centres
- UPS: Optional Input Filters part of Galaxy 50Hz range [200-900kVA] and Galaxy PW 50Hz range [20-200kVA] (MGE-UPS, Schneider, APC MGE or APC by Schneider Electric).

Potentially affected Capacitors can be identified as shown at Annex B.

**Note! Only products manufactured during the above dates and identified as being supplied to you, are affected by this Recall Notice**

In order for us to address this safety issue, we are undertaking a replacement program for all affected equipment and would ask you to take action as detailed below:

- a. For UPS Input Filter application, contact your local APC by Schneider Electric - Service Team, to define the appropriate solution for your application.
- b. For Capacitors in Switchboards, Motor Control Centres or Stand-alone Capacitor Banks, complete the enclosed Confirmation of Product Recall Notice Receipt attached at Annex C as fully as possible and return it to us, using the contact details shown.

As an additional precaution, you may switch off your PFC equipment, providing this is acceptable with your operational constraints.

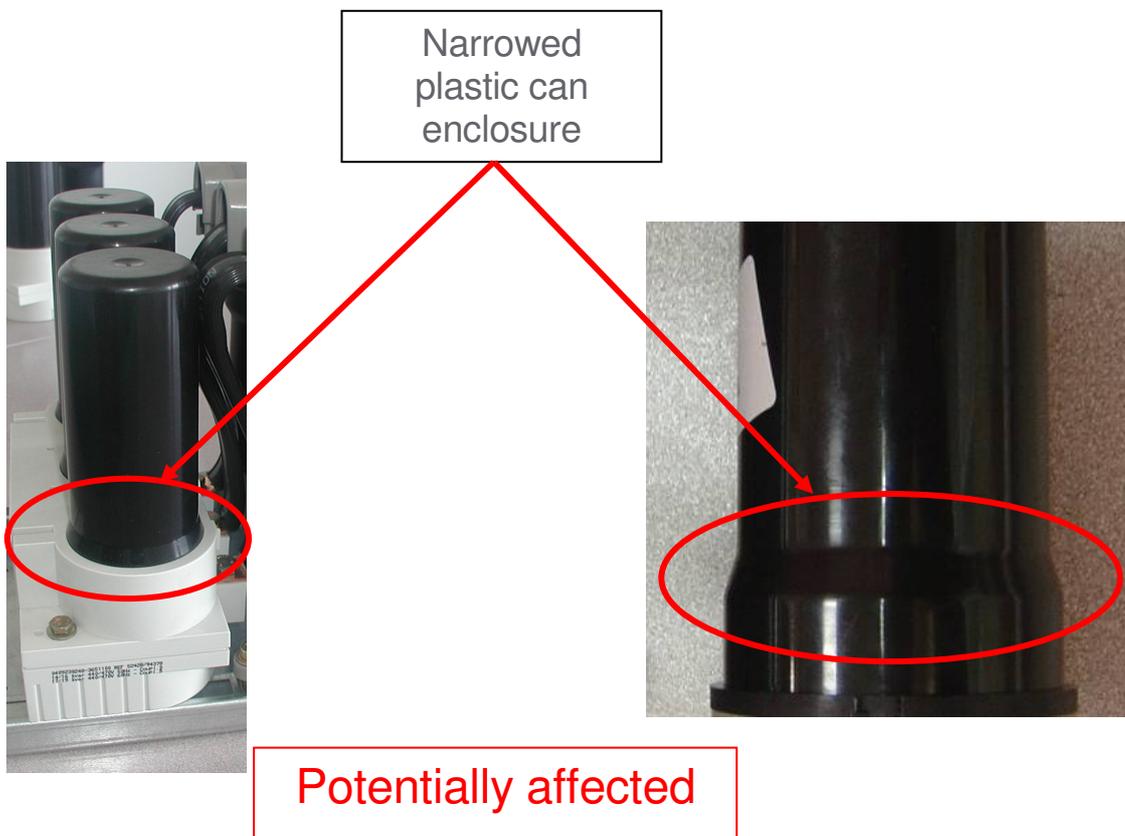
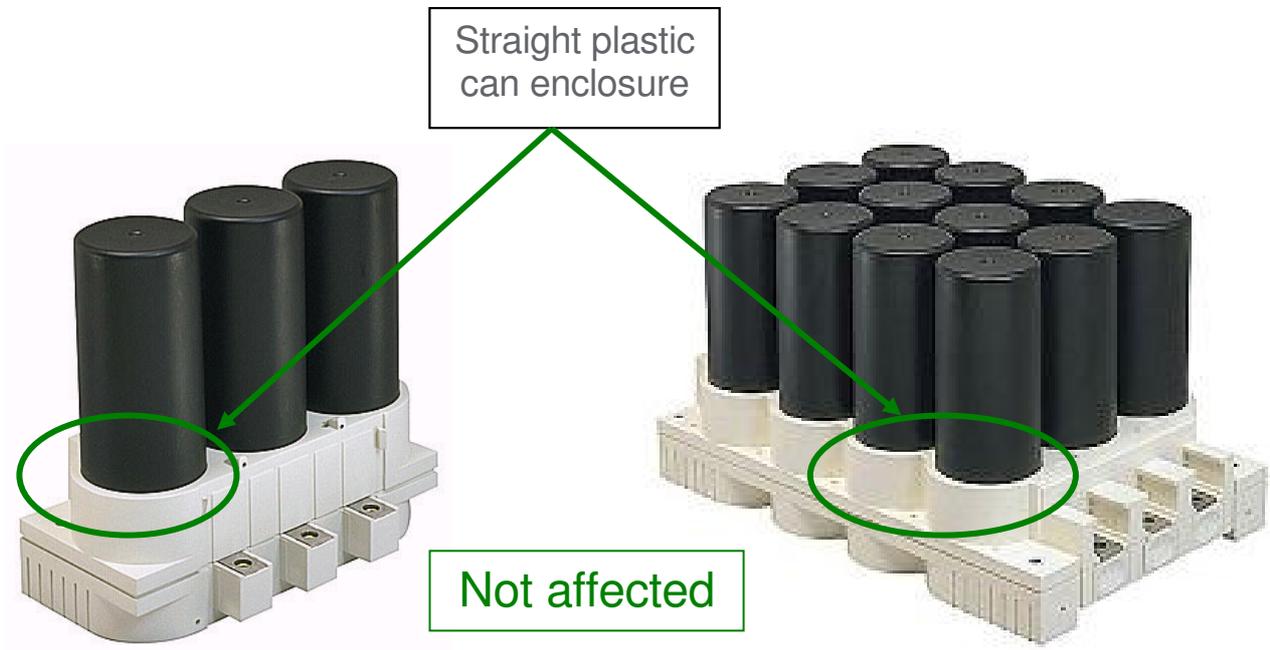
We regret any inconvenience this Product Recall Notice may cause you or your customers and thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Regards  
On behalf of Schneider Electric Ltd

Product Support Department  
Power Division

## How to identify potentially affected Capacitors

### Varplus M1 & Varplus M4



All of these types of capacitors, manufactured during the affected period, must be replaced

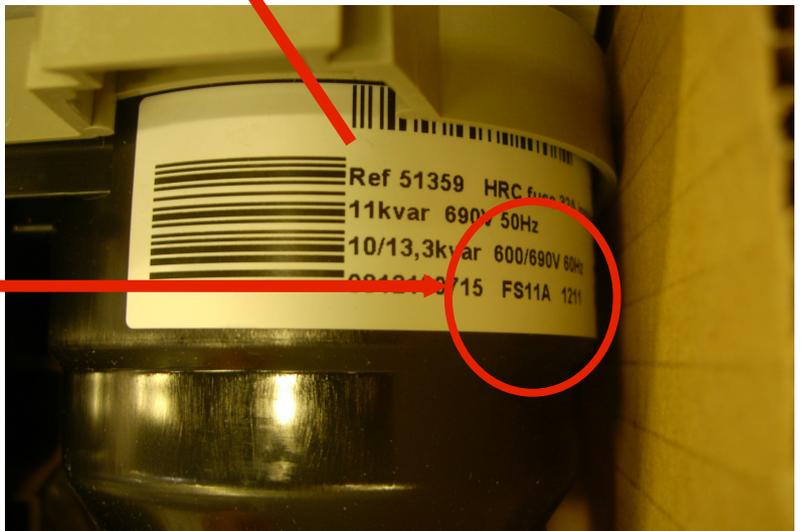
**Varplus<sup>2</sup>**



Potentially affected



Labels showing FS or CS are affected and must be replaced



**Project Arrow - Confirmation of Product Recall Notice Receipt**

Please fill in this form fully and return by one of the following methods:

Post: Maddison Walker  
 Product Support Department  
 Schneider Electric Ltd  
 Stafford Park 5  
 Telford  
 Shropshire  
 TF3 3BL

Fax: FAO Maddison Walker – 01952 209273

Email: [gb-bss-product-support@gb.schneider-electric.com](mailto:gb-bss-product-support@gb.schneider-electric.com)

**We acknowledge receipt of the Product Recall Notice**

From:

Contact Name:	
Company Name:	
Company Address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	

Please contact the above named person so that the appropriate actions for our installation can be arranged. The following information is supplied from our records and inspection of **Power Factor Correction (PFC) Equipment** installed on our site between **1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**:

Ser	Item	Serial Number (Note 1)	Drawing Number (if held) (Note 2)
1	Stand-alone PFC equipment		
2	Stand-alone PFC equipment		
3	Stand-alone PFC equipment		
4	Stand-alone PFC equipment		
5	Switchboard with PFC equipment		
6	Switchboard with PFC equipment		
7	Switchboard with PFC equipment		
8	Switchboard with PFC equipment		
9	Motor Control Centre with PFC equipment		
10	Motor Control Centre with PFC equipment		
11	Motor Control Centre with PFC equipment		

Continue on separate sheet if required.

Notes:

1. Schneider built panels will have rating label on front with a 7-digit job number starting with a 1, 2 or 3 (e.g. 3169251).
2. Schneider drawings begin with the following number format: 3DE or 3DS with 5 further digits (e.g. 3DE 41345).