

DATE: 16/12/2011

TO: Contractors or Purchasers of Schneider Electric Ringmaster ring main unit Switchgear

FROM: Mr. Neil Broadley

SUBJECT: Ringmaster RN2c, RE2c and RN6c ring main unit, manufactured between 17 November 2006 and 31 October 2009.



DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Product Safety Notice Reference Number: PSA-111201-318

Schneider Electric UK has become aware of a potential operational issue with the Ringmaster ring main unit manufactured between 17 November 2006 and 31 November 2009.

Operational issue

The Ringmaster ring main unit is comprised of two load break switches and a tee-off circuit breaker. We have become aware of a potential issue with the operation of the load break switches where it is possible for the mechanical drive between the operating mechanism and the main contact drive shaft to become disconnected. Consequently, the operation of the mechanism and its position indication may not represent the position of the main electrical contacts inside the switching device. Should this occur and standard industry de-energization practice is not followed, the potential for **Death, Serious Personal Injury and/or Property Damage** exists.

Dates of manufacture of affected Ringmaster

Our investigation has determined that equipment manufactured between 17 November 2006 and 31 November 2009 is affected with serial numbers between 100204905 and 100811684.

Serial number of affected Ringmaster

We ask that you check your records to confirm if you have any Ringmasters in the date or serial number range given above and identify their location which will help to speed up the intervention programme when we validate the recommended corrective action.

Recommended additional action for safe operation

If you are required to operate a Ringmaster ring main unit then we recommend that you read and follow the advice below.

It is your duty to always follow Governmental, Local and Industry electrical safe workplace regulations and practices. We are urgently developing the appropriate corrective action, but until it is available we recommend the following action is followed by all persons who are required to operate any Ringmaster ring main unit in the affected period of manufacture.

1. Use a properly rated voltage and reliable sensing device to confirm the switch contacts are open.
2. Ensure that a safety earth is applied to both ends of a cable that is connected to one or more Ringmaster ring main units,
3. In situations where 2 earth connections cannot be applied, e.g. direct cable connection to a transformer or on radial circuits, a separate and additional HV Point of Isolation (POI) shall be established at another location on the network to ensure there is no safety risk following the potential failure of a single Ringmaster ring switch.

In addition, it is possible to quickly and easily check that the ring switch mechanism is operating correctly by carrying out a simple visual check of the mechanism before and after each operation.

If the Ringmaster is fitted with a motorpack that is used in a remote operation network control scheme, the remote operation facility must be disabled during this inspection and preferably the motorpack should be removed until the Ringmaster has been repaired.

Details of the visual check are explained in the attached document.

Recommended action if you have identified a suspect Ringmaster

If you suspect you have a Ringmaster where the mechanism and indication is disconnected from the main drive shaft and the internal contacts - Do Not operate the Ringmaster and contact the local Schneider office or your local contact person.

Future corrective action

We will contact you again when our recommended corrective action is available including advice on how to arrange for the corrective action to be carried out.

Details of Ringmaster products not affected

This Safety Notice **DOES NOT** apply to the following equipment,

1. Ringmaster RN2c, RN6c and RE2c **tee-off circuit breaker** manufactured between 2000 to 2011
2. Ringmaster RMR single function switch and circuit breakers type CE2, CE6, CN2 and SN6 manufactured between 1996 to 2011
3. Ringmaster type RN2 all types manufactured between 1991 and 2000.

If you are not the actual user of this equipment or have sold the equipment to a third party we request that you immediately forward this notice to the organization or persons to whom you sold this equipment for them to take immediate action.

If you forward this notification to a third party we ask that you notify us to whom you have passed this notification to enable us to contact them and follow up regarding this notification.

We regret any concern and inconvenience that this Product Safety Notice may cause you or your customers.

If you have any questions about this Product Safety Notice please contact your local Schneider Electric office.

In the meantime we ask that you confirm in writing that you have received this Product Safety Notice and are preparing to take the appropriate action to prevent the risk of personal injury or property damage.

Please sign and date the attached form and send an original copy to the writer.

Regards,

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Enclosures:

1. Reply slip
2. Description of visual inspection before and after operation