



SAFETY ALERT

COUNTERFEIT SUB-STANDARD FLUORESCENT LIGHT ADAPTORS

Number: SA 01/10

Property Directorate Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

Date of issue: 21 Jan 10

Contact if different from Property Directorate Sponsor:

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Who Should Read this: CEstOs, MOD Energy Managers/Advisors, Maintenance Management Organisations, Site Estate Authority Teams, DCRE and any other person who is responsible for the maintenance of MOD electrical installations.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: 31 Jan 11

Document Aim: The aim of this of this Safety Alert is to inform stakeholders that counterfeit sub-standard fluorescent light adaptors may be in use on the MOD estate. Advice is provided for operatives on the measures to be taken if these are discovered on site.

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 & 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.

Background

Information has been received via the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that counterfeit and sub-standard fluorescent light adaptors may be in use on the MOD estate. These light adaptors were manufactured in China by Robert Dobson Consultant Limited, whose office address is as follows:

715 London Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 9ST

Following a complaint from the original designer, samples of the counterfeit items were tested by Electrical Safety Assessment Limited and were found to be lacking in a number of safety aspects. Subsequently, the Trading Standards seized some 600-700 adaptors. The company has admitted to selling their products to several retailers such as P&O, Halfords, B&Q, and the MOD. It is not known when the adaptors were sold to the MOD and in what quantities.

These fluorescent light adaptors permit the use of the more energy efficient T5 lamps in existing T12 and T8 fluorescent fitting without the need to modify the wiring within the fitting. The adaptor simply fits in place of the normal T12 or T8 tube and the slightly shorter equivalent T5 tube is accommodated by the adaptor. Details of the adaptors are as follows:

Brand/ID	Type	Model	Style	Serial No
EZDAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ZJ-T8ZT55	T8/T12 to T5	Not found
ADAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ADT14W	2 ft with lamp	Batch No 0720
ADAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ZJ-T8ZT55-135H	5 ft without lamp	Not found
EZDAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ZJ-T8ZT55-2-21H	6 ft (2 x 3 ft) without lamp	Not found
Not marked	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	Not marked	4 ft in with lamp	Not found
Not marked	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	Not marked	5 ft in white box, no lamp	Not found
Not marked	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	Not marked	2 ft with lamp	Not found
ADAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ZJ-T8ZT55-114H	2 ft without lamp	Not found
EZDAPT5	Fluorescent Light Adaptor	ZJ-T8ZT55-2-28H	6 ft (2 x 3 ft) without lamp	Not found

The Product Assessment Reports produced by Electrical Safety Assessment Limited were based on samples of the above.

The conclusions drawn for all the items above and included in the Reports were:

“ the samples tested did not comply with Clauses 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(b) of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994. The sample could not be regarded as being safe and constructed in accordance with principles of good engineering practice.”

Recommended Course of Action

Maintenance Management Organisations should make their operatives aware of the content of this Safety Alert so that they can undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments before working on any fluorescent light fitting with installed adaptor. Until it is confirmed that the adaptor is of an approved type, all fluorescent fittings with adaptors are to be treated in line with HSE's guidance below.

Where such an adaptor is identified as one of the above counterfeit versions the following advice from the HSE is to be taken:

"Electricians should note and record the presence of these adaptors during their routine surveys. These adaptors cannot be considered to be electrically safe but should present no significant safety problems if they are left undisturbed and untouched. The adaptors should be electrically isolated before any work is carried out. When any work is required, such as replacing a tube, the adaptor should be isolated, removed and internally examined and assessed for safety."