



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

SAFETY ALERT

Subject: Industrial Door Failure - Express and Schweiss Hi-Fold Doors

Number: SA 01/15

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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 (WaH), Authorised Persons (WaH).

This Safety Alert does not necessarily cover all aspects of the subject matter and readers should make themselves aware of other potential issues. Readers should also not rely on DIO Safety Alerts as their only means of becoming aware of safety issues, but they should consult widely across other media to maintain awareness.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: When updated or rescinded.

Health and Safety

Aim

1. To bring to the attention of appropriate persons the potential failure of industrial doors with the risk of serious injury, and the need to make checks that appropriate safeguards are in place.

Introduction

2. Compliance with the contents of this Alert will enable compliance with the Health & Safety At Work etc Act 1974 and its subordinate Regulations.
3. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) contractor to carry out all actions in accordance with this Alert.
4. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Part 2 Volume 3 – High Risk Activities on the Defence Estate.
5. 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.

Requirement

6. Vertically lifting industrial doors supplied by Express Hi-Fold Doors Ltd and Schweiss Hi-Folding Doors UK Ltd need to be taken out of service. Such doors should be lowered and left in the closed position until removed; or replaced if the access is still required.
7. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advise that these doors have no anti-drop mechanism nor a suitable safeguard to prevent uncontrolled dropping of the door in the event of critical component failure. Anti-drop mechanisms or other devices are required by European Law – European Machinery Directive and European Standards.
8. It is also advised that some doors have been modified by Schweiss Hi-Folding Doors UK Ltd who have taken over the servicing of existing Express Hi-Fold Doors, but it is understood that the doors still have no anti-drop mechanism, nor is it possible for one be retro-fitted for either Schweiss or Express Hi-Fold doors.
9. Any non-compliance (with legislation or recognised standards) of industrial doors and their attached lifting equipment should be identified by the competent person inspections required under PUWER or LOLER¹ and in accordance with the DIO Hard FM Standards and Tasks schedule (serials 220 and 221).
10. Any work incurring expenditure of MOD funding requires appropriate authority from the MOD officer responsible for the particular establishment.

Background

11. The HSE issued a letter on 3 Feb 2015 which draws attention to a serious failure of high folding doors in February 2013, where two people were killed (G-Live venue in Guildford). The doors in question did not have an anti-drop mechanism to prevent free-fall of the door in the event of a drive or suspension failure. The HSE state two particular aspects were lacking to prevent an ongoing risk:
 - Means to prevent continued operation of the door following a component failure
 - Means to independently secure the door in a static position

¹ Note: PUWER = Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
LOLER = Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

12. It is also possible there are other door systems which are not installed with an anti-drop mechanism, which also warrant checking.
13. The HSE letter was sent to all known owners/users of these high folding doors, and so it is possible that it has already been received by individual establishments who have Express Hi-Fold doors installed.