

# NHS WALES

## Estates and Facilities Alert



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Date: 21 July 2016

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## Operating theatre ultra clean ventilation (UCV) canopies fitted with gel seal HEPA filters

To: Chief Executives, LHBs  
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts  
NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership - Contractor Services

A list of people who need to have early sight of this information is given in the Alert

The content of Estates and Facilities Alerts is agreed between staff representatives from the four NHS administrations and issued throughout the United Kingdom. The Alert is endorsed by the Welsh Government as being relevant to NHS Wales and is issued by:

Neil Davies, Director, Specialist Estates Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

**For advice see details on the alert**

### Contact point in Wales:

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Alerts are available in full text at:

within NHS Wales: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=254&pid=64173>  
outside NHS Wales: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=254&pid=81844>

# Estates and Facilities Alert



Ref: EFA/2016/004

Issued: 21 July 2016

Valid to: 21 July 2022



## Operating Theatre Ultra Clean Ventilation (UCV) canopies fitted with gel seal HEPA filters

### Summary

Several incidents have occurred involving gel seal HEPA filters fitted to Ultra Clean Ventilation (UCV) canopies. Gel from the HEPA filter seal dripped from the UCV canopy diffuser screen. In one case, gel dripped onto a patient during a surgical procedure.

A range of companies supply UCV canopies but only Medical Air Technologies (MAT) and VtV Solutions are known to have supplied UCVs with gel seal HEPA filters fitted in a way that could lead to this problem.

Several companies manufacture gel seal HEPA filters. There is currently no link between filter manufacture and gel leakage.

MAT and VtV are reviewing the design of their UCV canopies.

### Action

All UCV canopies supplied by MAT or VtV should be visually inspected by removing the diffuser screen to ascertain if they have HEPA filters fitted with a downward facing gel seal.

If the gel seals are found to be dripping, the filters should be replaced and the performance of the UCV unit re-validated in accordance with procedure set out in HTM 03-01; Part A; Chapter 8 (SHTM 03-01 Part A in Scotland)

The operation and setting of the temperature control system for the UCV air system should be checked to ensure that it cannot exceed a supply air temperature of 35°C

UCV canopies fitted with gel seal HEPA filters should be inspected on a quarterly basis. This should include dropping the diffuser screen and visually inspecting the gel seal for signs of deterioration.

#### Action by

- Estates Managers
- Users (e.g. Theatre staff)

#### Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Actions complete: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Device details

Ultra Clean Ventilation (UCV) canopies supplied by Medical Air Technology (MAT) and VtV Solutions Ltd. with HEPA filters fitted with a downward facing gel seal.

## Problem / background

UCV canopies are fitted with HEPA filters to ensure a “clean air” environment within the operating zone. There are several methods of attaching the filter into the unit so that air does not leak past the filter and reduce its effectiveness. MAT and VtV have in some models used a HEPA filter surrounded by a channel filled with a gel compound. The filter drops into the UCV canopy which is fitted with a knife edge frame. The knife edge penetrates the gel forming an air tight seal. The filter gel is therefore suspended above the UCV diffusion screen. The composition of the gel is designed to ensure that it stays in the channel. However, it will drip through the diffusion screen if its viscosity is reduced.

Investigations have been carried out to determine if the problem is as a result of a reaction between the gel and commonly used cleaning agents or Hydrogen Peroxide Vapour (HPV) but no evidence could be found to substantiate this. Investigations suggest that running the UCV system with an elevated supply air temperature may reduce gel viscosity.

## Manufacturer contacts

MAT – 0844 871 2100 [sales@medicalairtechnology.com](mailto:sales@medicalairtechnology.com)

VtV – 0161 654 4260 [contact@vtvsolutions.co.uk](mailto:contact@vtvsolutions.co.uk)

Camfil – 01706 238000 [filtersales@camfil.com](mailto:filtersales@camfil.com)

TripleAir Technology – 01670 739394 [info@tripleairtechnology.com](mailto:info@tripleairtechnology.com)

GVS (Nationwide) – 01524 847600 [gvsuk@gvs.com](mailto:gvsuk@gvs.com)

## Distribution

Estates Managers, Risk Managers, Health & Safety, Infection Prevention and Control teams.

## Enquiries

The above sections of this Alert were compiled by the Department of Health in England and distributed nationally without modification.

If you have enquiries about this notice, contact appropriate Regional Office, quoting reference number found at the top of this alert.

### England

Enquires should quote reference number EFA/2016/004 and be addressed to:-

[Mb-defects&failures@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mb-defects&failures@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### Reporting adverse incidents in England

Defects or failures should be reported on this system: <http://efm.hscic.gov.uk/>

The web-based D&F reporting system is managed by the NHS and Social Care Information Centre on behalf of the Department of Health. For further information on this system, including obtaining login details, please contact the efm-information Helpdesk. Tel 0300 303 5678.

### Northern Ireland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre, CMO Group,

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Tel: 028 9052 3868 Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: [niaic@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:niaic@health-ni.gov.uk)

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hea/niaic.htm>

### Reporting adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC using the [forms on our website](#).

### Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre, Health Facilities Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland

Tel: 0131 275 7575

Email: [nss.irc@nhs.net](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.net)

### Reporting adverse incidents in Scotland

NHS Boards and Local Authorities in Scotland – [report to Health Facilities Scotland](#).

Contractors such as private hospitals carrying out NHS work and private care homes that accept social work funded clients – [report to Health Facilities Scotland](#).

Private facilities providing care to private clients report to the [Care Inspectorate](#) and [MHRA](#).

### Wales

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Wales should be addressed to:

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Appendix [optional]