

NHS WALES

Estates and Facilities Alert



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Date: 31 January 2017

Cathays Park, Cardiff
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Swimming pool overhead lighting systems

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

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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

Reference: EFA/2017/001 Issued: 31 January 2017 Valid to: 31 January 2023



Swimming pool overhead lighting systems

Summary

- The purpose of this safety alert is to advise organisations with swimming pools of the risks of collapse from a certain type of swimming pool lighting system following an incident at a public swimming pool.
- The findings from the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authority investigations indicate that the plastic bracket / roller system, found on a certain type of aluminium lighting system which operates on a runner, is liable to severe degradation over time and can break and collapse without warning.
- The lighting system affected was installed over 30 years ago and it is not known how many similar systems exist.

Action

- Identify whether similar lighting systems are found within your premises. Please see the original HSE alert <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/pool-hall-lighting.htm> to assist with the identification of potential affected units.
- Identify whether the lighting units are attached to the supporting structure / runner by means of a plastic bracket / roller (and the integrity of this is relied upon to support the lighting).
- Carry out thorough inspection of the condition of the plastic bracket / roller where similar designed plastic brackets / rollers are found to be present and, where age or condition gives cause for concern, consider replacement of the brackets / rollers or fitting additional securing mechanisms where appropriate.

Action by

- Estates Managers
- PFI Partners
- Capital Scheme Partners

Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 7th February 2017
Actions complete: 7th March 2017

Problem / background

A swimming pool overhead lighting system collapsed without warning and could have caused serious injury to pool users. Certain types of aluminium pool hall lighting systems operate on runners. The lights are attached by means of a plastic bracket / roller that are difficult to observe when in situ. Inspection of the plastic brackets / rollers at two separate swimming pool sites following the incident found severe

degradation / perishing of the plastic on many of the lights found. All of the lights have had to be replaced.

Distribution

- Estates Managers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety
- PFI Partners
- Capital Scheme Partners
- Electrical Contractors presently contracted for work in your organisation

Annexes

1. Health & Safety Executive photographs and descriptions of overhead lighting system affected.

Enquiries

This alert has been compiled under a partnership arrangement by the organisations below and it has been distributed across the UK. Enquiries should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office quoting the alert reference number.

England

Enquires should quote reference number EFA/2017/001 and be addressed to:
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 Digital (formerly known as 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 Email: niaic@health-ni.gov.uk
<http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/niaic>

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 (IRIC)
Health Facilities Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland
Tel: 0131 275 7575 E-mail: nss.irc@nhs.net

Reporting adverse incidents in Scotland

Use our [online report form](#) or download the [PDF form](#)
Independent facilities providing private care should report to the [Care Inspectorate](#).

Wales

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

Simon Russell, Principal Engineer, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estates
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Annex – Health & Safety Executive information

Photo 1 & 2 – Lights in situ at one Leisure Centre Pool and unit that collapsed

Two leisure centre swimming pools were built in South Wales in 1987 and 1989 with square aluminium lighting units that were connected together in a series of three lights. These were then mounted onto runners supported from the ceiling structure. The lights were mains powered and fitted with sodium lamps. The dimensions of the set of three lights together are 1800mm (length) x 600mm (width) x 400mm (depth). Details of the manufacturer have not been fully established. Photographs 1 & 2 show the lighting in situ at one of the leisure centre pool sites and the lighting unit that collapsed.



Inspection of the lights took place in September 2013 and the condition of the plastic brackets / rollers was not identified as being an issue at that time. However, inspection of the lights in situ would allow very limited visual inspection of the brackets owing to them being located in the metal roller channel. Photograph 3 shows the view any inspection would have of the bracket / roller arrangement when in situ for this particular type of lighting.

Photo 3 – View of roller and light attachment in situ



Location of plastic bracket / roller – hidden by runner channel fixed to ceiling structure (thin section visible)

The plastic bracket / roller is secured to a metal profile attached to the lights using a steel bolt and square plate. The bolts showed signs of rusting that may have contributed to the degradation of the plastic bracket / roller. The bracket / roller supports the weight of the three aluminium lighting units which are joined together. The set of three lighting units, which are secured together, were supported by six bracket / rollers (two brackets / rollers per individual light unit). Photographs 4 and 5 show a broken plastic bracket / roller that was attached to the lighting unit.

Photos 4 and 5 – Broken Plastic bracket / roller attached to lighting unit





Photograph 6 shows a complete plastic bracket / roller that was removed from another lighting unit. Please note that the wheels will be positioned at the top within the runner channel fixed to the ceiling structure.

Photo 6 – Complete bracket / roller (without steel bolt and plate)



During a public swimming session where approximately 10 swimmers were using the pool, a set of lighting units fell to the deck surrounding the pool. Fortunately, nobody was stood next to the pool at the time as the collapse could have caused serious injuries. Photographs 7 and 8 show the area of tiles that were replaced and the damage to the lighting units involved.

Photos 7 and 8 – Replacement tiles following impact and damaged light unit

