

NHS WALES

Estates and Facilities Alert



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Date: 16 November 2015

Cathays Park, Cardiff
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Plug-in Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)

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/2015/005

Issued: 16 November 2015

Plug-in Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)

Summary

- Internal damage to the SMPS which (under normal operating conditions) supplies 12VDC to an auroscope resulted in the external body of the equipment reaching 230V.
- Severe injury resulted to consultant and patient when an earth path was completed.

Action

- Reinforce the requirements of maintaining portable electrical equipment to comply with Health and Safety at Work Act and The Electricity at Work Act as set out in the Health and Safety Executives document HSG107.
- If equipment is already on a routine inspection/test routine then this may cover any requirements for the equipment to be checked. However there may also be a need to identify any equipment that is not on a routine checklist then inspect and test that equipment and add to a routine inspection/test schedule.
- Raise awareness of all staff (operational and estates) to highlight and escalate any visual damage to equipment, particularly power supplies.
- Remove any physically damaged equipment from use. It should then be inspected and tested before putting back to use. Any equipment that requires repair should be removed from use in order that the appropriate team (e.g. Estates or Medical Physics) can make a decision as to whether the item should be scrapped or suitably repaired.

Action by

- Estates Departments
- Medical Physics
- Users

Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 23 November 2015

Actions complete: 21 December 2015

Device details

Plug-in Switch Mode Power Supply (SMPS)



Problem / background

During a routine auroscope examination a consultant and patient received an electric shock.

The type of auroscope used relies on the metal casing as the return path for the 12V DC used to power the light source.

Upon investigation it was found that the plug-in power cube had developed a fault which resulted in the return path becoming live at mains voltage. When the consultant touched an examination lamp whilst holding the auroscope he received a shock via the resulting earth fault path.

It would appear that the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) shielding on the power supply (which was connected to the negative of the power supply and thereby a direct connection to the auroscope handle) was damaged and resulted in a direct connection with the live side of the input transformer

No residual current device (RCD) was installed on the circuit due to the age of the installation.

The face of the power cube showed signs of scuffing and impact (perhaps from trolleys)

Manufacturer contacts

There are no specific manufacturer details

Distribution

Estates Managers, Risk Managers, Health & Safety, All users

Enquires

England

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.

Reporting adverse incidents in England

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

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@dhsspsni.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 Fax: 0131 314 0722

Email: 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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