

NHS WALES

Estates and Facilities Alert



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Date: 30 May 2018

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GEC regulators type MPRS2 used in medical, laboratory and industrial gas cylinder supply manifold systems: risk of catastrophic failure

**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.nwssp.wales.nhs.uk/publications-and-information>

Estates and Facilities Alert

Reference: EFA/2018/001
Issued: 30 May 2018
Valid to: 31 May 2024

GCE regulators type MPRS2 used in medical, laboratory and industrial gas cylinder supply manifold systems: risk of catastrophic failure

Summary

A metal structure fault in a batch of bonnet components for GCE regulators can result in catastrophic fracture failure of the bonnet under certain operating conditions. (See figures 2, 3, 4 and 5 from reports from different NHS Trusts). This results in the regulator ceasing to supply working gas and the possibility of physical injury from ejected components.

The regulators at risk were manufactured in 2015, and bear the data codes: E5AA, E5BA, E5CA, E5DA, E5EA, E5FA, E5GA, E5HA, E5JA, some may have 'F' as the last letter. The code is marked on the rear of the regulator, see figure 1.

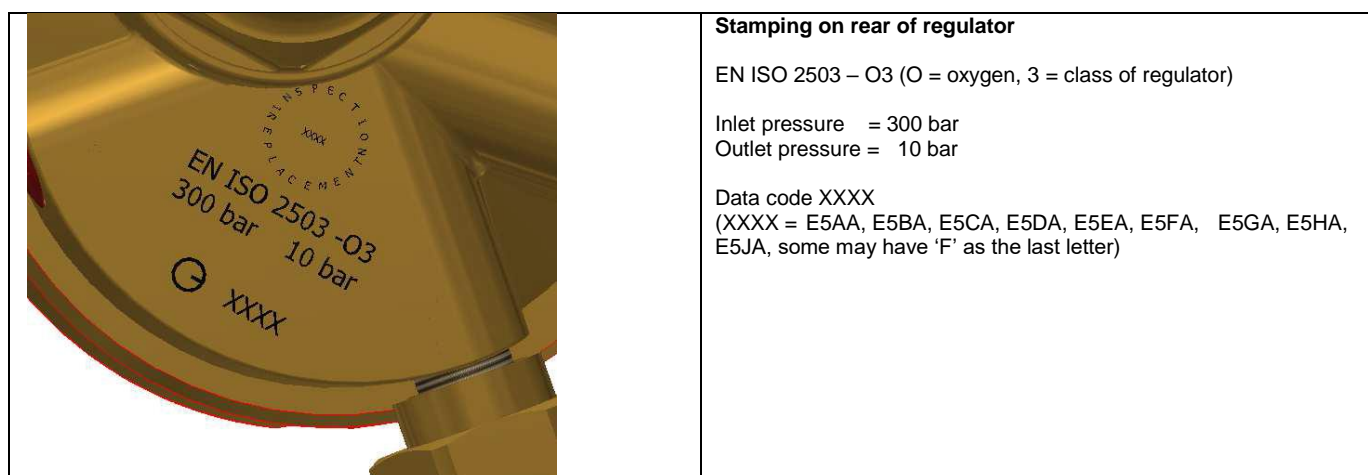


Figure 1

Action

- Check regulators in medical, laboratory and industrial gas cylinder manifold supply systems for inclusion of GCE regulators
- Check batch data codes
- Contact suppliers of the manifolds to arrange for replacement bonnets to be fitted to regulators bearing the data codes listed above

Action by

- Estates Managers
- MGPS Authorising Engineers and Medical gas committee members
- MGPS Authorised Persons

Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 06 June 2018

Actions complete: 01 August 2018

Device details



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Problem / background

It has been brought to our attention that GCE regulators manufactured during 2015 and fitted to some gas supply manifold systems have a defect.

Replacement regulators manufactured during 2015 and fitted to manifolds could also be affected.

The structural fault causes cracks in the bonnet which then falls off (see figures 2, 3, 4 and 5), resulting in the regulator ceasing to supply gas.

GCE have advised that the failure rate is 1%, however it is recommended that **all** regulators bearing the data codes listed above be fitted with replacement bonnets

Any faulty regulators that have been repaired already will have been fitted with a blue bonnet making them easy to identify.

Manufacturer contacts

GCE Group
100 Empress Park
Penny Lane
St Helens
WA11 9DB
Tel No: 01942 292950

Chris Tipper
Chris.Tipper@gcegroup.com

Distribution

Estates Managers, Risk Managers, Health & Safety, MGPS AE's and Medical gas committee members

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/2018/001** and be addressed to:-
nhsimb-defects&failures@nhs.net

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 NHS Digital on behalf of NHS Improvement. 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
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 which only provide private care should report to the [Care Inspectorate](#).

Wales

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

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