Estates and Facilities Alert

Ref: **EFA/2016/002** Issued: **30 June 2016** Valid to: **30 June 2022**

13A electrical socket inserts (socket covers or protectors)

Summary

In certain circumstances, the use of plastic 13A electrical socket inserts (sold as safety accessories), can overcome the safety features designed into socket outlets.

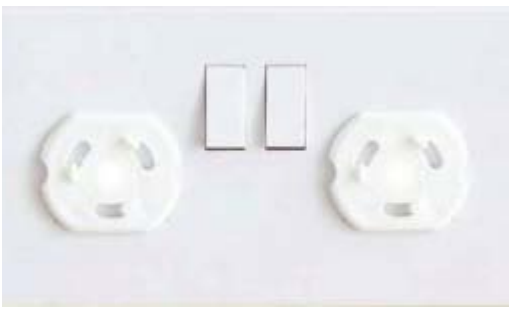
Action

- 13A electrical socket inserts should not be used in health or social care premises, nor supplied for use in a home or residence
- Any socket inserts currently in use should be withdrawn and responsibly disposed of.

Action by
- All users

Deadlines for action
Actions underway: 18 July 2016
Actions complete: 01 December 2016

Device details (typical only)


Problem / background

It is a requirement of the IET Wiring Regulations - BS7671:2008 (2015), that socket outlets have shutters and preferably be of a type complying with BS1363. Electrical sockets that are manufactured to BS1363 (13A wall socket-outlets, multi way adaptors and flexible extensions) must have an interlocking shutter mechanism to stop the insertion of foreign material into the socket tubes. The BS1363 standard also sets a distance which a plug pin has to be inserted before coming in contact with live parts.

Socket covers are not constructed to any electrical or other safety standard. The pins on the socket covers may be larger than the socket tubes which can cause damage to the socket and defeat the safety design of BS 1363.

In certain circumstances the insertion of socket covers, or their breakage whilst in use, can allow foreign objects to be inserted directly onto live parts within the socket, thus presenting a high risk of electric shock.

Manufacturer contacts

Not applicable

Distribution

Estates Managers, Risk Managers, Health Centres, Health & Safety, Care Home Services, Community Care, Learning Disability Units, Loaned Equipment Stores, Safety Representatives, Social Services, Supplies/Procurement, Wards, All users

References

IET Wiring Matters 2012 number 44
http://electrical.theiet.org/wiring-matters/44/wall-socket-protectors.cfm?type=pdf

Fatally flawed:
www.fatallyflawed.org.uk

Enquiries

The above sections of this Alert were compiled by Health Facilities Scotland 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/2016/002 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 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

www.dhsspsni.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, Health Facilities Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland

Tel: 0131 275 7575 Fax: 0131 314 0722

Email: nss.iric@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:

Simon Russell, Principal Engineer, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estates Services, 4th Floor, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UB

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