SAFETY ALERT

ASBESTOS CONTAINING HRC FUSES

26/07/16 | Issue SA 68-16

> Low voltage (LV) HRC service fuses that are not part of our current inventory catalogue may contain friable asbestos material
> Safety precautions **must** be implemented when handling LV HRC fuses
> Handling of material containing asbestos is Essential Energy's Network Fatal Risk 2: Exposure to hazardous chemicals / materials.

Background – what happened?

All low voltage (LV) HRC fuses of any rating including service fuses that are not part of our current inventory catalogue may contain friable asbestos material fully enclosed within the body of the fuse. Safety precautions **must** be implemented when handling LV HRC fuses.

Initial Factual Information

An independent investigation undertaken for Essential Energy identified friable asbestos material fully enclosed within 7 out of 45 of the LV HRC service fuses tested.

LV HRC fuses of any rating including service fuses that are not part of our current inventory catalogue may contain friable asbestos material fully enclosed within the body of the fuse.

Extent of Injury / Damage / Potential Risk

LV HRC fuses of various ratings are used throughout the distribution network.

The identified asbestos material is fully enclosed within the fuse body and asbestos fibres are not able to be released unless the fuse body is compromised or broken. The investigation concluded that "there is no elevated risk exposure to asbestos fibres from within fully intact undamaged HRC fuses". There is no practical means to confirm if a fuse is asbestos containing by visual identification.

Essential Energy's initial response

Essential Energy has reviewed the independent report and considered the findings against our existing practices, policies and procedures.

As a result of the findings in the independent report, all LV HRC fuses not currently listed on Essential Energy's current stock code listing of replacement fuses **must be presumed** to contain friable asbestos and managed in accordance with the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (NSW).

What do you need to do?

Fuse Removal Work

When conducting work to remove low voltage HRC fuses, the worker should approach the work as Asbestos Level 1 Work. This includes utilising PPE as determined by risk assessment in accordance with Essential Energy asbestos awareness training.

Prior to the commencement of work to remove a LV HRC fuse, undertake a visual inspection of the fuse to assess whether the fuse is part of our current inventory catalogue and the fuse condition.

If the fuse is able to be identified as current stock, then work may proceed as normal.

If the fuse is unable to be identified as current stock then the fuse **must** be presumed to contain asbestos and the following safety precautions **must** be implemented:

> If the fuse body is undamaged and intact the fuse may be carefully removed taking care not to break or damage the fuse body

> If the fuse body is damaged then this is considered Level 4 asbestos work and the work area must be isolated with asbestos tape then a HSE team Environmental or Safety Specialist should be contacted for further advice

> Following removal, the used fuse and any PPE used should be double bagged using asbestos waste bags and disposed of in an Essential Energy asbestos waste bin

> A review should be undertaken of vehicles and depot stores for any LV HRC fuses that are **not** part of our current inventory catalogue. Handling and disposal of these fuses **must** follow the requirements outlined in this briefing.

To be completed by 12/08/16

NO UNSAFE ACTS

essential energy

Immediate action required

All workers must:

1. **Review CECM1000.10a Hazardous Materials - Asbestos to ensure understanding and compliance for all workers.**
2. **Conduct a review of non-current stock listed LV HRC fuses in vehicles, depot stores and warehouses, following the above PPE and disposal requirements, and respond through their regional administration team to: Robert.walker@essentialenergy.com.au with the results of the review.**
3. **Return all HRC fuses that are labelled "ipd" regardless of size to Robert Walker at Inverell Depot ASAP, as further detailed analysis of this type is required for verification of asbestos status.**
4. **All workers must know and apply the Network Fatal Risk (NFR) Rules We Live By when undertaking our highest risk activities. Click here to download the NFR Rules We Live By booklet.**

Please refer to the images adjacent and on the following page showing LV HRC fuses confirmed to contain friable asbestos.

John Cleland

Chief Executive Officer

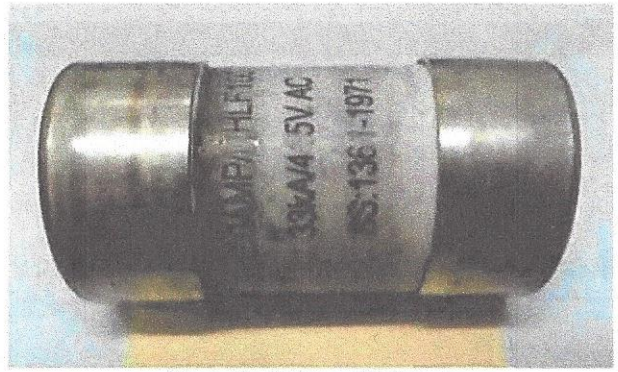
David Nardi

General Manager Safety, Human Resources and Environment

Fuses confirmed to contain friable asbestos

An ipd brand of HRC fuse and example markings
Manufacturer: ipd
Model: RHLF100
Details: 33kA/415V, AC, AS/NZS 60269.3.1, 5.07.10
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected

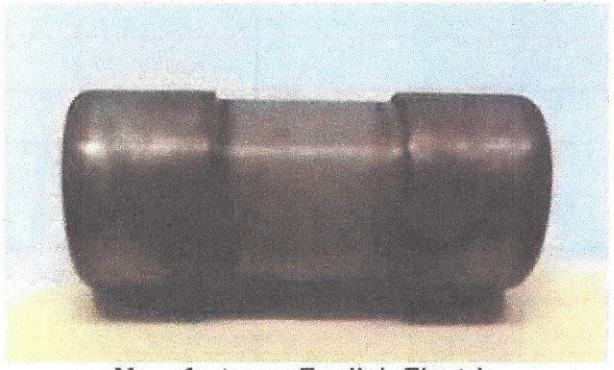
Fuses confirmed to contain friable asbestos



Manufacturer: Alstrom
Model: 100AMP/RHLF100
Details: 33kA/415V AC, BS1361-1971, 100A
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected

Manufacturer: Henley
Model: List No. 30450
Details: 440A.C.4 BS88:1952, FF1.70 Pat.No. 58:269
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected

Manufacturer: Lawson Fuses Ltd
Model: ME
Details: BA1361, BS88, 415Vac, 80 ASTA cert01
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected



Manufacturer: English Electric
Model: RHI
Details: BS 1361 1971, 415 volts
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected

Manufacturer: Henley
Model: List No. 30348
Details: 440ac 4, B.S.88:1952, Pat. No. 581269
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected

Manufacturer: Nilcrom
Model: No VK60/R
Details: 440V AC5
Result: Chrysotile (white asbestos) detected