

Safety Notice

Notice to Powerco Contractors

Issue 13 | Sep 2025

Transformer base plate / rodent cover

Powerco has identified a concerning trend of warping rodent covers on transformers pads, resulting in gaps where hands or animals could easily access.



Fig1: Taranaki warped PVC Cover

Fig 2: Replaced cover

Fig 3: Papamoa warped PVC Cover

A recent inspection in South Taranaki (TX 5748E) found the PVC rodent-proof cover on a Busck concrete 'H'-shaped pad had warped inward.

Follow-up checks show 62% of 160 similar transformers across the network have the same issue.

This poses a public safety risk—HV and LV cables may be exposed, and animals can access and damage equipment.

Likely Causes

- Thin PVC covers (4.2mm) lacking UV/heat stability.
- Incorrect installation of thicker (6mm) ribbed covers—ribs cut off or not fitted under the TX body.

Next Steps

- Technical Services is investigating.
- An Engineering Instruction will follow once resolved.

Contractor Actions

- Use ribbed/stiffened 6mm PVC covers or an earthed metallic cover.
- Report warped covers with gaps $\geq 5\text{--}10\text{mm}$ via the defect notice process.

Questions? Please contact the Technical Assurance Team techassurance@powerco.co.nz