

SAFETY ALERT



BEST IN SERVICE, BEST IN SAFETY



Subject: 2005 ABB Safelink Failure

Date: Friday 10 February 2017

Description:

While undertaking 11kV switching operations to isolate a ring main unit, an adjacent ring main unit line switch was manually opened. During the switching operation the ABB Safelink ring main unit failed causing an internal explosion and loss of the SF6 insulating gas. The unit contained the arc and the operator was not injured.

Initial indication is that the switch 'over travelled' and the live moving component came into contact with an earthed component.

Although this was a known issue with an earlier model with manufacturing date of 2004, the same issue appears to have occurred with a later 2005 model of this ring main unit.

Current action taken:

Do not operate restrictions have been placed on all WEL's 2005 manufactured units until results of the investigation have been received.



For further information contact: The WEL Networks Health & Safety Team.