

safety alert

Asbestos Heater Washers in Transpower Circuit Breaker Mechanism Box

Type: 220kV Mitsubishi type SFM

Electrix Event Number C16480

The Issue

Asbestos washers need to be disturbed when changing blown/failed heater in the circuit breaker mechanism boxes

What Happened

During a heater change the Maintainer suspected that the washers were asbestos and one was tested. Confirmation was obtained that the washer are asbestos material. Warning stickers have been attached to known, affected circuit breakers in SS3 region and on site hazard boards/register updated.

Findings

An asbestos removal plan (JSEA) is to be used which includes disposable gloves, overalls and P2 minimum breathing mask with an appropriate filter. Disposal shall be via a recognised disposal company to ensure safe transport and correct disposal.

Legal Requirements

If employees suspect a material is asbestos it must not be disturbed until the material has been analysed by an approved asbestos contractor.

Immediate Actions Required

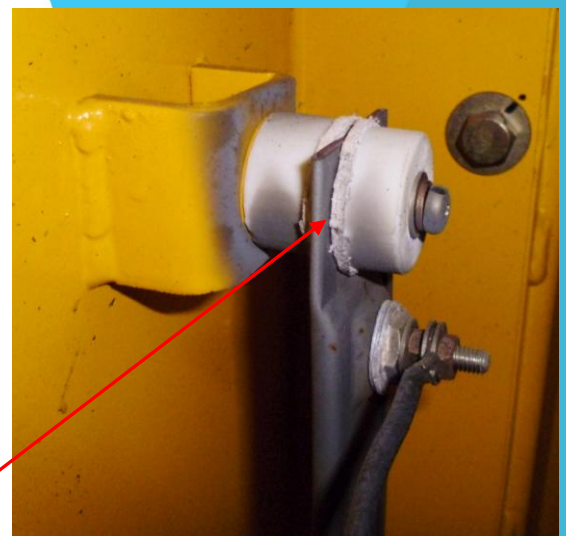
Asbestos washers are not to be disturbed unless following an agreed asbestos removal plan.

If staff identify additional equipment that may contain asbestos they are to make the area safe and report the observation to their manager/supervisor.

Refer to Electrix policy EMO5K or Work Safe guide details which may be found at:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/new-zealand-guidelines-for-the-management-and-removal-of-asbestos-3rd-edition/safe-removal-of-friable-asbestos>

Asbestos fibre washers on heater mounts situated at both ends of the heater located in the circuit breaker mechanism box.



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Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event