

HSE Alert 10 in 2019

Defective Lucy service cut outs

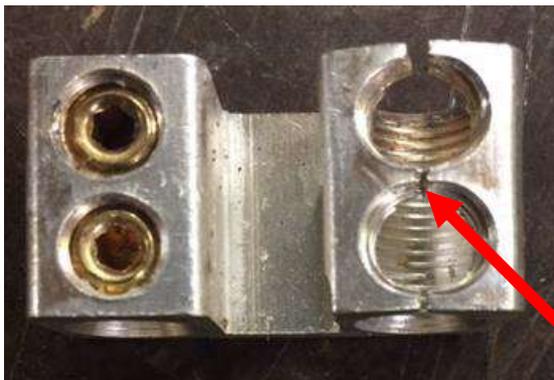
Date of issue: 30 September 2019

Background

The Lucy Group manufacture a range of low voltage electrical service cut outs, commonly used across the TfL estate, to terminate incoming mains supplies to buildings and within street lighting columns.

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks) have reported two recent near misses involving new Lucy service cut outs. NIE Networks discovered the defect with a new Lucy service cut out when tightening brass screws on the outgoing phase terminal block to secure the conductor.

They found that the terminal block 'split' as the screws were being tightened using an insulated 3mm allen key. The 'split' terminal block can be seen in the images below.



'Splitting' in the phase terminal block

NIE Networks tested other units at their training centre and found that these Lucy units also 'split' on the phase terminal block.

The cut outs in question are 100 A house service cut outs, however the ADEPT lighting group are highlighting that similar Lucy cut outs used in highway lighting installation may also be affected.

If the cables are not secured they could become loose and expose live conductors which could result in electric shock. They can also get hot which could result in a fire and if connections become intermittent this could result in damage to downstream equipment.



Lucy house cut outs known to be affected:

- 100 A single pole fuse unit with separate neutral and earth terminals & PME link
- 100 A single pole fuse unit with combined neutral and earth terminals for PME systems
- 100 A single pole fuse unit with separate neutral and earth terminals & PME link with two type 'B' cut outs (fuses)
- 100 A single pole fuse unit

Similar Lucy products may also be affected.

Instruction for all parties

1. Before starting any work involving alterations/amendments to Lucy service cut outs, the terminal blocks should be inspected for any 'splits'.
2. During any work on Lucy service cut outs, care should be taken when tightening screws in the terminal blocks and once work on the cut out has been completed terminal blocks should be inspected for any 'splits'.
3. Any defective cut outs should be returned to Lucy via your supplier for a replacement or where it is not a TfL asset, the asset owner notified.

Please communicate this alert to your teams, projects and suppliers as appropriate

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