

Estates and Facilities Alert

Action

Ref: EFA/2010/005 Issued: 08 April 2010 at 1300hrs

Device

TASKI – Ergodisc Duo Type 43LHSL machine for wet scrubbing / stripping / buffing floors, manufactured by Diversey Ltd.



Problem

There is a risk of switch failure, meaning that the machine cannot be switched off with the hand levers and has to be disconnected from mains to stop it.

When next used, a faulty machine will start immediately on being 'plugged in', resulting in uncontrolled operation and risk of injury / damage to anyone / anything in the near vicinity.

The TASKI machines have been used in the UK for some 20 years. The manufacturer has advised that this problem has so far only been observed on older machines which have been in regularly daily use.

Action

Managers and users should receive refresher training on the safe use of the equipment as well as the updated instructions for use attached to this alert.

Managers should remind users about machine fault reporting procedures to prevent faulty machines being used again before repair.

Regular maintenance should be undertaken and recorded in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Action by

Managers and staff involved in the provision of domestic services and the repair and maintenance of domestic services equipment.

Contact

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Problem

1. There have been two incidents reported involving TASKI – Ergodisc Duo Type 43LHSL machines manufactured by Diversey Ltd for wet scrubbing / stripping / buffing floors. The machines began to rotate immediately upon being plugged into the electrical wall socket, creating a hazard for anyone / anything within close proximity.
2. Switching high current on this type of machine generates high energy sparks in the switch which can weld the electrical contacts closed. To help avoid this, the TASKI machine is equipped with a ‘Schulte’ jump-switch (which uses an internal guiding element) with a life-time of 50,000 switching cycles. This switch type is commonly used by many manufacturers.
3. If, as in these incidents, the switch contacts failed despite the ‘Schulte’ jump-switch, the machine cannot be switched off with the hand levers – it has to be disconnected from the electrical supply and will start again if plugged in.
4. The orange label on the handle of the machine states:
*Before connecting to mains supply:
With machine in working position
Pull On-Off levers several times*
5. The instructions for use state that *an audible click should be heard [and felt] when the lever is used. If no click is heard the machine should not [be] used.*

Action

6. Departmental managers should ensure that staff operating this equipment are issued with (and follow) the operating guidelines attached to this alert.
7. The ‘click’ check (see points 4 and 5) should be carried out before each period of use.
8. If a machine fails to pass the ‘click’ check, or malfunctions in any way, it must be removed from use immediately and quarantined until repaired by an authorised person.
9. The manufacturer recommends that all machines be subject to regular servicing.

Suggested Onward Distribution

- Accommodation Officers
- Domestic Services
- Estates/Facilities
- Health & Safety
- Hotel Services
- Risk Management
- Safety Representatives
- Supplies/Procurement

Contacts

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Additional Information for Northern Ireland

The above sections of this Alert were compiled by Health Facilities Scotland and distributed nationally without modification.

Action required by this alert should be **underway by: 7th May 2010**

Action required by this alert should be **completed by: 9th July 2010**

Enquires should quote reference number EFA/2010/005 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates Investment Group
Room 17, Annex 6
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Dundonald
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890 523868

Fax: 02890 523900

E-mail: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

How to report adverse incidents

Incidents relating to medical devices, estates equipment and plant in Northern Ireland must be reported to the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC) as soon as possible. Further information about reporting incidents can be found in DB(NI)2010-001; and downloadable report forms are available from the NIAIC's website (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>).

Alternatively, further information and printed incident report forms are available from: NIAIC at the address above.
(An answer phone service operates outside normal office hours)

Estates and Facilities Alerts are available in full text on the NIAC website

Further information about SABS can be found at <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

This Alert can be found on the following websites

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic> and <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

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Before Use



1. Display warning signs and prepare area to be treated.



2. Carry out check of machine. Operate the on/off switch by pressing the orange safety switch and squeeze the upper lever. An audible click should be heard when the lever is used. If no click is heard the machine should not be used.



3. Check the plug and cable. Report any faults or defects with the machine to a supervisor. **Do not** use the machine if the plug or cable are damaged, or the switch click is not heard.



4. Do not plug in and switch on the machine until the machine is ready for use.



5. Tip the machine back and rest the handle on the floor. Fit the pad/pad drive or brush to the machine. Raise the machine back upright.

During Use



6. Plug machine into socket and switch on.



7. Keep the cable flat on the floor NOT taut.



8. Hold the cable over the handle NOT over the shoulder. Keep the cable out of any solution on the floor and away from the working part of the machine.



9. Position the machine on the floor to be cleaned at a point furthest from the socket.



10. Squeeze the lower lever to adjust the handle position. The operator's back should be straight with arms slightly bent. (Refer to the label on the handle). Release lever to lock in to position.



11. Position the machine so the pad or brush is flat to the floor and the handle is in a comfortable position. To activate the machine press the orange safety button and squeeze the upper lever.



12. The direction of the machine can be controlled by raising or lowering the handle during use. Raise the handle ↑ to go right. Lower the handle ↓ to go left.



13. Cut in the edges to avoid any corrugated effect on the floor.



14. Work backwards from side to side with overlapping passes. Ensure the cable is behind the operator at all times.



15. Check the pad / brush regularly for clogging. Unplug the machine before turning or changing the pad or brush.



16. Put the machine in the upright position with the handle in the upright position when the machine is not in use. Unplug the machine if left unsupervised.



17. When changing socket, unplug the cable and coil the cable from the machine to the plug, not plug to the machine. This prevents twisting of the cable which could cause a defect.



18. When the cleaning task is complete, switch off and unplug the machine.

After Use



19. Remove the pad drive or brush.



20. Wind the cable back onto the handle and cable restraint. Pass the cable through a damp cloth to clean the cable, checking for any damage as the cable is being cleaned.



21. Wipe the machine clean with a damp cloth, remember to clean the Pad Drive/Brush housing. Check for any damage or defects.



22. Return the machine to store. Do not store the machine with Pad/Pad Drive or brush fitted. Report any damage or defects to a supervisor.



23. Wash and clean the Pad or Brush and leave to air dry.

! ATTENTION! Do not use the machine before you have read and understood the instructions of use