

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2006/62

Issued:19/10/2006

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: TECN VAP Model: Junior Star - Steam cleaner/vacuum cleaner	▶ ①
Problem: Electrical tracking across mating surfaces of the Euro interconnecting Plug.	▶ ②
Action by: This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate estates managers and Domestic Services Managers.	▶ ③
Action: Remove the equipment from service prior to the following checks and assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The equipment may be loaded up to 5.4 kW which is not suitable for connection using a standard BS1363 (13A) plug top. Review safety and change to a BS 4343 connection if appropriate, otherwise withdraw from service. Check the mating surfaces of the interconnecting plug for indications of moisture or residue. Clean all parts and institute this check before each use. Increase the frequency of electrical safety tests on this equipment to six monthly. If continuing in service ensure only the cleaning fluid recommended by the manufacturer is used. 	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers For onward distribution see Section 5	▶ ⑤
Contacts NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

TECN VAP Model: Junior Star -Steam cleaner/vacuum cleaner

2. PROBLEM:

An operator suffered electrocution, and investigation revealed a breakdown of the insulated interconnecting Euro plug, whereby moisture may have been made live. The follow-up investigation revealed a breakdown in the insulation of the interconnecting Euro plug, whereby moisture may have made the device live.

The investigation drew the conclusion that the cleaning fluid used may have leached into the plastic of the interconnecting plug, causing it to lose its insulating properties.

The interconnector is located under the cleansing agent filling ports, and is therefore susceptible to cleaning agent leakage.

Although not a factor in the incident, the electrical loading of the equipment exceeds the current rating of a 13A supply, and a BS1363 power source is therefore not suitable to power the device safely

In its European manufactured form this equipment is supplied with a 16A non-fused plug. When sold in the UK this is replaced with a BS 1363 13A fused plug top). This plug is not suitably rated for this device and should not be used.

3. ACTION BY:

This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate estates managers and Domestic Services Managers.

4. ACTION:

Remove the equipment from service prior to the following checks and assessment.

- The equipment may be loaded up to 5.4 kW which is not suitable for connection using a standard BS1363 (13A) plug top. Review safety and change to a BS 4343 connection if appropriate, otherwise withdraw from service.
- Check the mating surfaces of the interconnecting plug for indications of moisture or residue.
- Clean all parts and institute this check before each use.
- Increase the frequency of electrical safety tests on this equipment to six monthly.
- If continuing in service ensure only the cleaning fluid recommended by the manufacturer is used.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Domestic Services Managers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2006/62 and be addressed to:
Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)

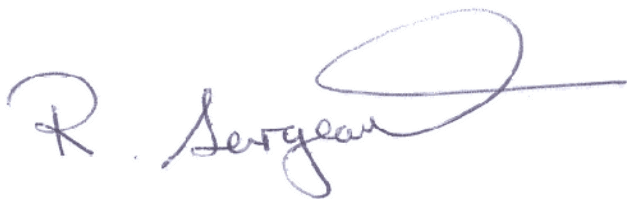
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US

Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Sergeant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Robert Sergeant
NIAIC Operational Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

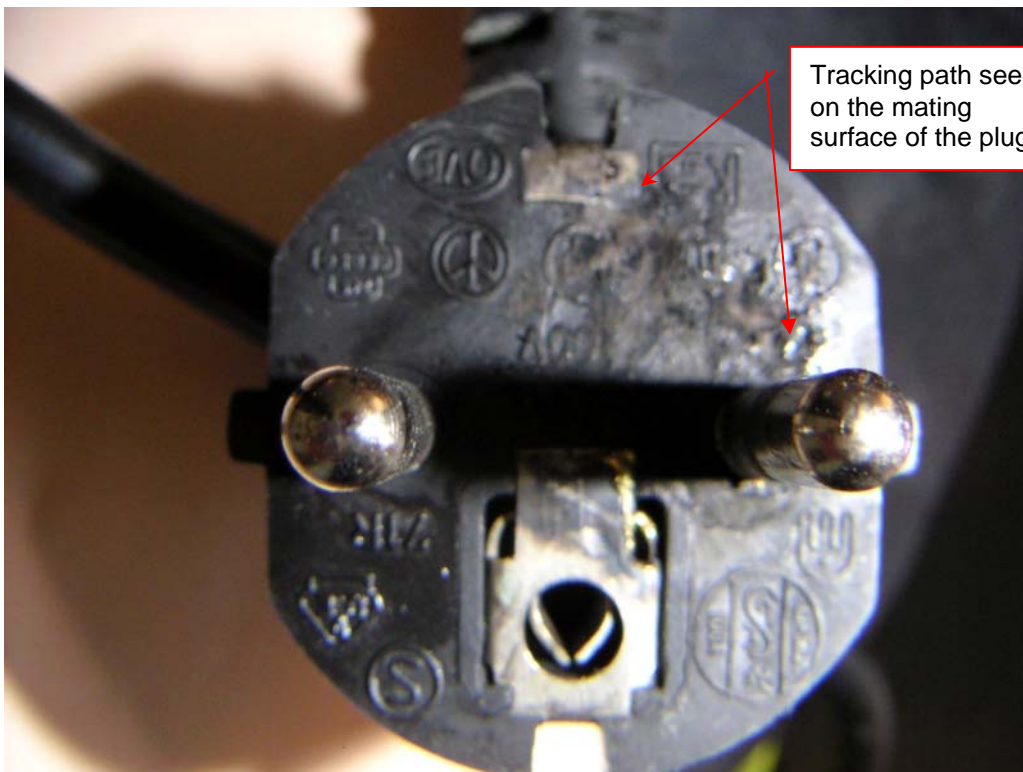
Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Appendix

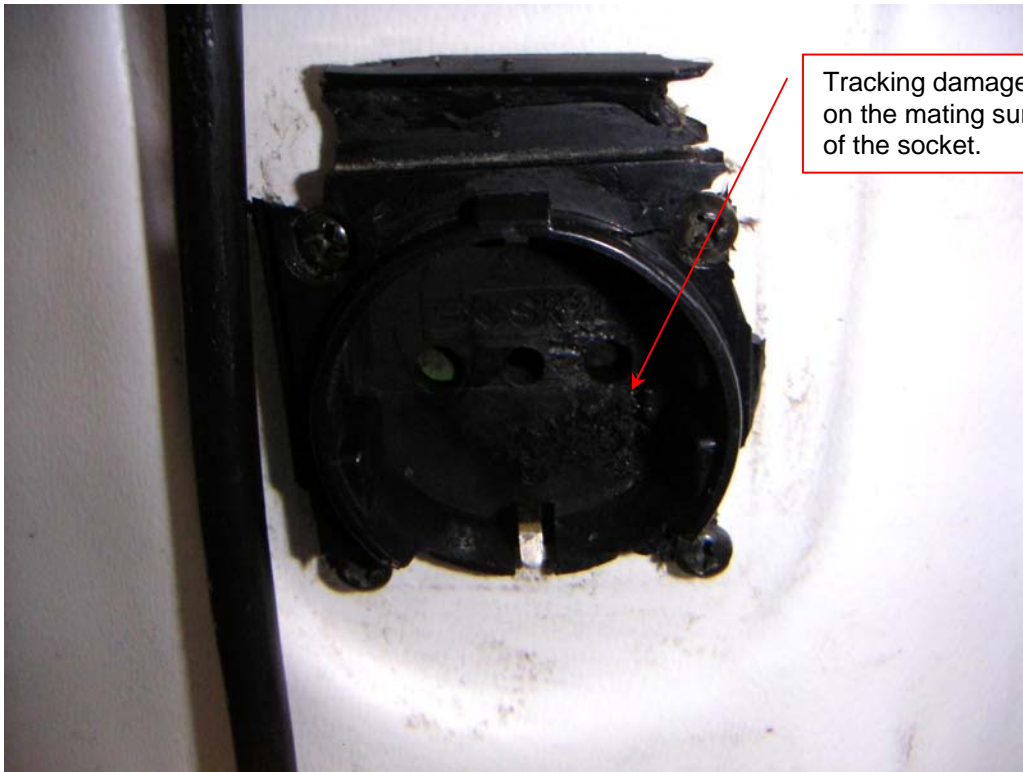


Vacuum Cleaner Interconnection Coupler

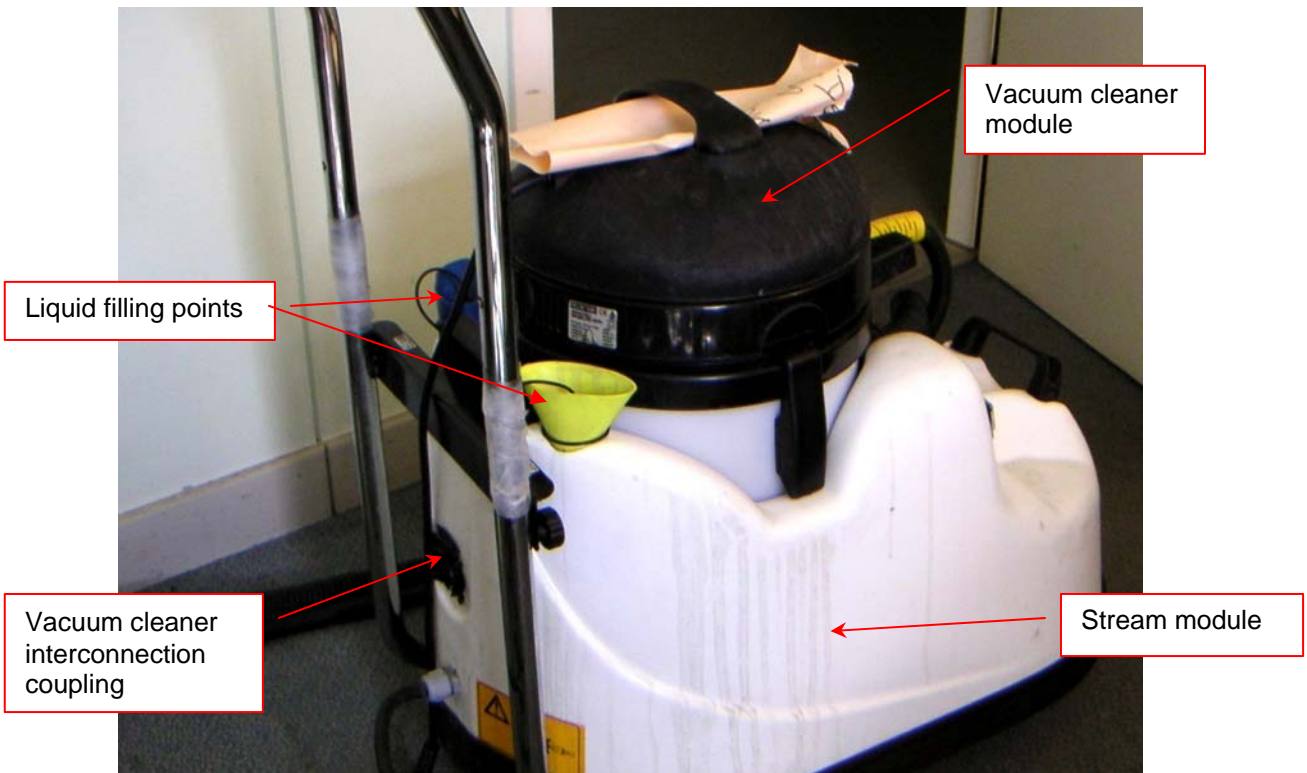


Tracking path seen on the mating surface of the plug.

Tracking path on Interconnection Plug



Tracking Path on Interconnection Socket



Position of Vacuum Cleaner Interconnection Coupler