

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/33

Issued: 19 April 2007

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	



HEALTH ESTATES

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	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: STOBU Steam Stop Valve	▶ ①
Problem: Sudden failure of the thread in the bush of the valve spindle resulting in valve opening violently whilst under steam pressure on a boiler.	▶ ②
Action by: Staff with special responsibility for Estates and Health & Safety.	▶ ③
Action: Examine valve for wear of the bush and spindle on this type of valve. Review maintenance and lubrication schedule.	▶ 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 Details of supplier contacts and NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None required	▶ ⑦

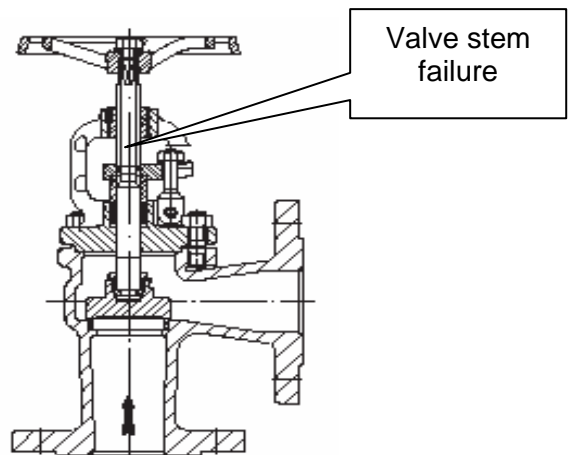
This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

STOBU Steam Stop Valve

2. PROBLEM:

- 1) Sudden failure occurred whilst opening an ARI-Armaturen STOBU steam stop valve.
- 2) The threads in the spindle bush failed causing the valve to open violently under pressure, four of the five spokes on the hand wheel also broke away.
- 3) The incident narrowly avoided a serious injury to the operator.
- 4) The cause of valve failure is not clear.
- 5) The valve was installed in 2003 and the incident occurred in July 2006.
- 6) Lubrication of the spindle and bush is directly via the spindle as there is no grease nipple or other provision on this model.

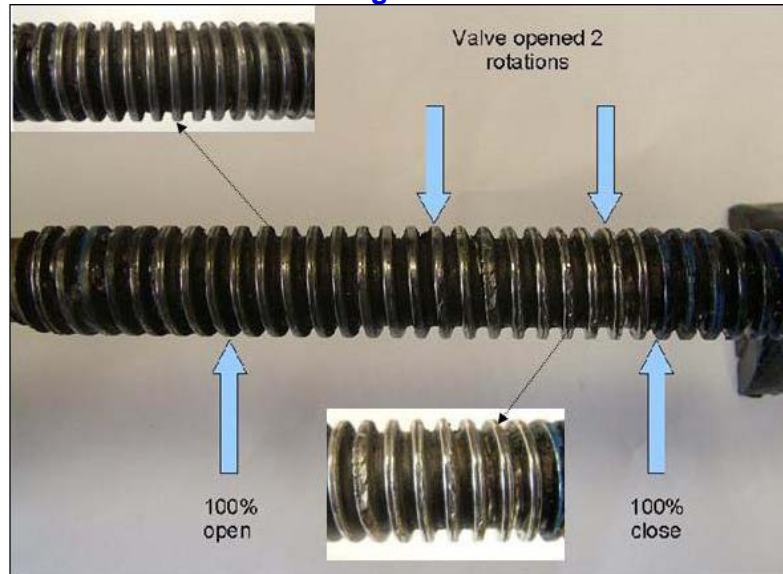


Type of valve failure
Figure 1



Other similar valves
Figure 2

**Wear on Valve stem
Figure 3**



3. ACTION BY:

Staff with special responsibility for Estates and Health & Safety, should ensure that this Alert is brought to the attention of appropriate staff.

4. ACTION:

- 1) Identify all ARI-Armaturen STOBUS steam stop valves. Figure 1 shows type of valve that failed. Figure 2 shows other valves that may have signs of related failure.
- 2) Isolate and remove the valve from the boiler for examination and strip. Visual and insitue examination may not suffice due to the worn portion being masked (see figure 3).
- 3) Examine for wear of the bush and spindle.
- 4) Where a valve cannot be removed an operating restriction notice must be applied.
- 5) Advice should be sought from your insurance inspector and ARI-Armaturen
- 6) Subsequent actions will depend upon the findings of the examination and discussions with insurance inspector and ARI-Armaturen.
- 7) Ensure the maintenance and lubrication schedule is in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation and sufficient records are maintained.

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
- Estates Managers

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Mr Tony Harrison
Operations Manager
ARI-Armauren UK Ltd
Energy House
Unit 2, Shannon Place
Tewkesbury Business Park
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire

Tel : 01684 275 752

Fax : 01684 275 627

Email : ach@uk.ari-armaturen.com

Website : www.ari-armaturen.com

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/ 33and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US

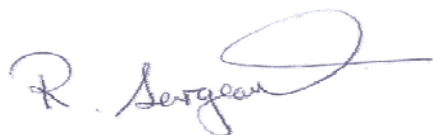
Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None Required



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