

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2003/11 Previous warning notice reference: HN(NI)98/01
 Issued: 3 June 2003

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	✓
ACTION	
UPDATE	
INFORMATION REQUEST	



**NORTHERN
 IRELAND
 ADVERSE
 INCIDENT
 CENTRE**

	Section								
Medical Device/Equipment: Electrolux (now known as Dometic) Drugs refrigerator, Electrolux MR60	▶ ①								
Problem: Ammonia leakage / Minor explosion	▶ ②								
Action by: Directors of Estates, Estates Managers, Directors of Facilities, Risk Managers, Health and Safety Advisors, Practice Managers.	▶ ③								
Action: Inspect for improper functioning / signs of corrosion. Repair /replace as necessary.	▶ ④								
Distributed by NIAIC to: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td style="width: 50%;">General Medical Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust</td> <td>General Dental Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each Agency</td> <td>Community Pharmacists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NIAIC Liaison Officers</td> <td>Hospices</td> </tr> </table> For onward distribution see Section 5	Chief Executive of each HSS Board	General Medical Practitioners	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust	General Dental Practitioners	Chief Executive of each Agency	Community Pharmacists	NIAIC Liaison Officers	Hospices	▶ ⑤
Chief Executive of each HSS Board	General Medical Practitioners								
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NIAIC Liaison Officers	Hospices								
Contacts Manufacturer and NIAIC Contacts for further information if required	▶ ⑥								
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None	▶ ⑦								

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

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Electrolux (now known as Dometic) Drugs refrigerator, Electrolux MR60

2. PROBLEM:

This guidance re-affirms the previous guidance given in Hazard Notice HN(NI)98/01.

NHS Estates have informed NIAIC that there has been a recent report of a minor explosion and ammonia release causing an A&E department of an NHS Trust to close down for several hours whilst the fire brigade ventilated the area.

Electrolux have carried out an investigation and concluded that the refrigerator had become depressurised. This stopped the ammonia from circulating and the refrigerator had stopped functioning. The heating element was warming up the liquid ammonia without circulating it. This resulted in accelerated corrosion of the ammonia pipe and a sudden release of ammonia.

Electrolux have also indicated that they have witnessed numerous units that have stopped cooling in this manner in some locations.

The fault is mainly age related.

3. ACTION BY:

Directors of Estates, Estates Managers, Directors of Facilities, Risk Managers, Health and Safety Advisors, Practice Managers

4. ACTION:

1. Identify Electrolux refrigerators (see table 1 for other models that may be affected).
2. Check the following (Electrolux are willing to aid in this examination).
 - The refrigerator is cooling properly.
 - At the rear of fridge, the coolant tube near the heating element especially at the welds for signs of pitting corrosion or discolouring (yellow flaky deposits - refer to diagram 1).
3. Repair / replace as required.
4. Ensure the refrigerators are put onto a regular preventative maintenance programme.

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:

- Medical and Nursing Staff
- All wards
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Practice Nurses
- Day Care Centres
- Independent Health Care Providers
- Community Dental Clinics

6. CONTACTS:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US
Marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey

Tel: 028 9052 3714
Fax: 028 9052 3900
Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Enquires to the Manufacturer:
Hugh Lamberton
Customer Services Administrator
Electrolux Leisure Appliances
P. O. Box 88
Oakley Road
Luton
LU4 9QQ
Tel : (01582) 494 111
Fax : (01582) 490 197
E Mail : hlamberton@dometic.co.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None Required



Brian Godfrey, NIAIC Manager

Table 1

Model	Product Number	Approximate Production Date
RA 10A		1969
RA 10B		1975
RA 120		1976
RA 210		1976
RA 212		1979
RA 212A		1981
RA 212B		1983
RA 212F		1985
RA 122		1980
RA 122B		1982
RA 122F		1984
RA 122H	9267545-01	1987
RA 122H	9216628-01	1991
RA 122H	9211500-02	1998
MR60	9211065-31	1994 (Recent Failure)
MR60	9211501-14	1998
RA 212 H		1998

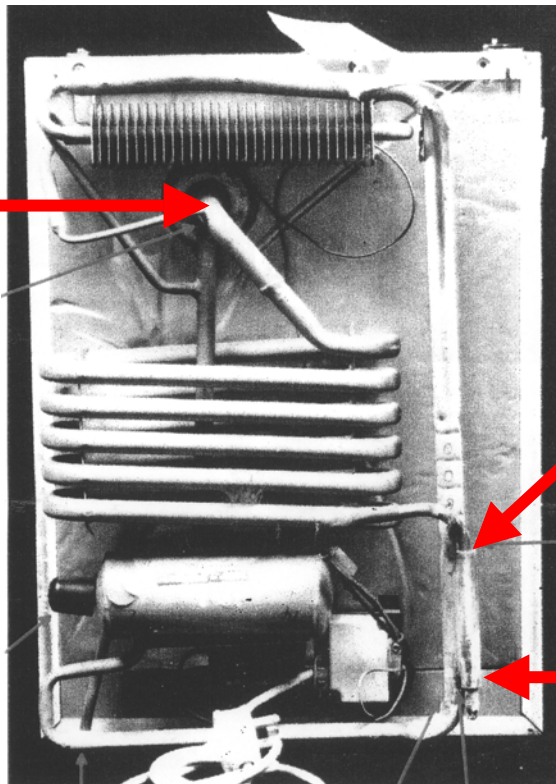


Diagram 1 – Typical Layout
Main Areas to check at rear of refrigerator

LOOK AT THIS WELD FOR CORROSION

HEATER

LOOK IN THIS AREA FOR CORROSION AND POSSIBLE LEAK

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 Safety Notice SN (NI) 2003/01. 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