

FAO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Date AS POSTMARK

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UNITED KINGDOM

CAPACITOR SAFETY RECALL NOTICE
COOPER LIGHTING AND SECURITY

Cooper Lighting and Security have recently notified us of a potential fault with the capacitors used in the luminaire detailed below:-

RS 400-9168 Luminaire,fluorescent batten,surface,white,Crompack 5,4ft,twin,2x36W,1200mm

Our records show that you have purchased 1 of these products as detailed below.

Date	Qty	Contact Name	Invoice	Order Reference	RS Stock No
18 Mar 2004	1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3243	4009168

Please refer to the enclosed letter ' CAPACITOR SAFETY RECALL NOTICE - FOR ISSUE TO CONTRACTORS AND END USERS' from Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd.
We apologise for any inconvenience caused but urge that you carry out the action suggested and contact their contractor/user helpline on 01302 303352.

Yours faithfully



Mike Field
Recall Co-ordinator
RS Components UK

CAPACITOR SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

FOR ISSUE TO CONTRACTORS AND END USERS

We need to bring to your attention that a fault may develop in capacitors used in certain light fittings manufactured by Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd in Crompton brand and in distributors' own brands.

This fault is not apparent during testing but appears after some months of use. The fault can appear as a loss of capacitance, capacitors running hot, deformation of the capacitor case, or in certain circumstances, **the capacitor catching FIRE.**

The incidence of capacitors catching fire is very low, but because of the risk attached to fire this issue needs to be taken very seriously.

In the event of a capacitor catching fire it is expected that the metal body and metal gear tray or louvre will contain the flame and therefore the risk of fire spreading outside of the fitting is low. However, there is still a risk and these products need to be traced.

In the event of recessed fittings using Tpb, non fire retardant prismatic panels which are usually made of styrene or acrylic, the fire risk is higher as a capacitor fire can set the panel alight which could in turn fall from the fitting and start a fire beneath. A higher risk also exists with twin 4ft 36 W surface fittings which have a styrene or acrylic diffuser. It must be stressed that these are the highest risk situations and must therefore take priority in the process of tracing product.

The capacitors at risk are branded DNA of type LPPT (LPPS and LPPE are not affected). The size of capacitors affected are 8.4 uf (microfarad), 8.0 uf and 16 uf. The time period of risk are those made between April 2003 (date code 04/2003 or 04/03) and October 2003 (date code 10/2003 or 10/03) inclusive.

These capacitors were built into fittings and supplied by Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd from the following dates:

8.4 uf and 8.0 uf	from 1 May 2003
16 uf	from 1 February 2004

Because these fittings could have been shipped immediately to a distributor and then onto yourselves and some may remain in distributor stock, this warning notice applies to fittings bought by yourselves as follows :

8.4 uf and 8.0 uf	from 1 May 2003 up to the present date
16 uf	from 1 February 2004 up to the present date

In broad terms, the fittings affected are as follows and apply to switchstart and electronic start versions. The warning does NOT apply to high frequency fittings.

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8.4 uf and 8.0 uf

3 x 18 W	Typically recessed and surface modular
4 x 18 W	Typically recessed and surface modular
2 x 36 W	Typically surface louvred, battens, IP65 fluorescent Crompton brand
3 x 36 W	Typically recessed modular
4 x 36 W	Typically recessed modular
1 x 100 W	Batten
2 x 26 W	Typically recessed downlights

16 uf

4 x 18 W	Typically recessed and surface modular
4 x 36 W	Typically recessed and surface modular
2 x 100 W	Batten

Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd have checked all of their stocks and replaced any suspect date code capacitors. All goods supplied to distributors as of today are suitable for immediate sale.

We are working with our distributors to ensure that the stock they currently hold and are supplying does not contain suspect capacitors and have asked them not to sell it until it has been checked. As a precaution, check with your stockist that products you purchase in the near future have been checked by the distributor (boxed marked with a tick next to the carton label) or newly supplied by Cooper Lighting and Security (box marked with a yellow dot on or next to the carton label.) Only the suspected product listed above will contain these markings. The vast majority of Cooper Lighting and Security products are unaffected and will not be marked.

We have asked our distributors to write to all of their customers who have bought suspect product during the window of risk.

Whether or not you have received contact from a distributor, you should act on this warning notice.

Please call our contractor/user helpline on 01302 303352. You will be asked to provide a list of installations where suspect product has been used, when they were installed and the product type. This will help us to identify if the product is at risk and needs to be checked. **Arrangements will then be made with you to check and if necessary replace only suspect capacitors.**

A general warning notice will be sent out in various trade publications to ensure that the risk is made clear to those who may not have been notified for whatever reason.

It should be stressed that the potentially faulty units are independently approved for use across Europe. The fault is not detectable during the many tests during manufacture. It manifests itself only when a component used within the capacitor degrades with use.

The problem affects only those fitting types, capacitor types and date codes listed in this communication.

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It does not affect the vast majority of Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd products. It should also be stressed that an extremely small quantity of capacitors have failed, but because of the serious nature of the risk – particularly with Tpb styrene and acrylic panels and diffusers, Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd have taken a highly responsible approach in issuing this Safety Notice.

This notice and action plan applies only to goods manufactured by Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd. We are not responsible for DNA capacitors which have been installed into fittings manufactured by others.

CONTRACTOR/USER HELPLINE – 01302 303352

Cooper Lighting and Security Ltd
Wheatley Hall Road
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UK
12 August 2004