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Open Letter to Electrical industry.

Subject: old gunpowder charge indicating fuses

Dear Customer,

Over the years we have repeatedly encountered obsolete English Electric Class C fuses having an integral indicator consisting of a pocket of gunpowder ignited by a nichrome wire.

This system evolved in the UK for use on 415Vac systems. At these lower voltages, the gunpowder basically just 'fizzled' and burnt through the water transfer decal covering the pocket.

However, on 600Vac systems, depending on the circuit conditions at the time, the gunpowder pocket can erupt violently, expelling debris and ionized gases into the surrounding gear. It is for this reason that the Canadian Mining Association banned the use of this type of indicator, and English Electric subsequently dropped this design in newer production.

These older fuses can be identified by the following;

- a) They are English Electric labeled.
- b) They have a round water transfer decal saying 'Indicator' on the rear side. If this is scraped away, the gunpowder pocket can be seen.
- c) Many (but not all) of these indicator fuses had a line of white ceramic grout around the body where it met the end caps.

In light of current Arc Flash initiatives, and the general drive to eliminate electrical hazards in the workplace, it is highly recommended that any of these fuses in inventory be discarded, and any in service, be earmarked for replacement during upcoming maintenance work.

Fully approved dimensional and electrical equals are readily available to replace these fuses.

Please contact our offices or our nearest rep for a cross reference chart and information on suitable replacements.

Best Regards



KNOWLEDGE. SERVICE. SOLUTIONS.