

Blue Alert- Counterfeit Power Cords

Date: Tue, 16 Mar 2004 17:40:07 -0500

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Subject: BLUE/Information: Counterfeit Power Supply Cords Labeled --- AMPKD DXC RVVZ 18AWG3X

Date: 03/03/04

Lessons Learned Summary: Do not use/procure electrical equipment which does not clearly indicated approval from the Underwriter's Laboratory.

Discussion of Activities: An Instrument Technician started wiring several micro processor chassis. As part of the installation, the 6-foot power supply cord had to be shortened due to the space constraints in the plastic instrument box. When the initial cut was made he noticed that the wire was 24 gauge rather than 18 gauge as indicated on the outside of the power supply cord. The power supply cord also did not have any indication that it had Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approval which is standard on all electrical equipment. All six power supply cords were cut to check the wiring and all six cords were incorrectly wired with 24 gauge.

Analysis: The wire gauge is significantly smaller than required for the application. Thus causing a potential fire hazard due to overheating of the power supply cord. The power supply cord does not have UL approval indicating that it does not meet globally recognized electrical standards. The gauge of the wires within the power supply cord cannot be verified without cutting into the cord. This is usually not required, therefore, the problem is never identified. The power supply cords which have been identified to date were included in kits provided by NorhTech and were manufactured in Taiwan. The cords are labeled: AMPKD DXC RVVZ 18AWG3X.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Examine the power supply cords for your computer and related equipment to determine if they have the following labeling: AMPKD DXC RVVZ 18AWG3X.
- 2) If you find any power cords with this specific labeling, replace with the appropriate cord and your division safety officer or quality assurance specialist/coordinator.

Priority Descriptor: Blue / Information
Work/Function: Maintenance - Electrical
Hazard: Electrical / NEC
ISM Core Function: Feedback and Improvement
Originator: ORNL Quality Services Division
Validator: None
Contact: Martha Woody, (865) 574-9265, woodyma@ornl.gov
ADC: Not required
Reviewing Official: None
Keywords: Power Supply Cords, Wiring Gauge, Suspect/Counterfeit
References: None