

4/19/93

2. EBERLINE CONTINUOUS AIR MONITOR FAILURES

On April 19, 1993, personnel at the Hanford 1100 Materials Receipt Area reported wiring discrepancies in 40 new Continuous Air Monitors (CAMs) supplied by the Eberline Corporation, potentially affecting the monitor's ability to operate in cold environments. During acceptance testing of the CAMs, facility personnel identified several wires not properly insulated in accordance with the component design drawings. In addition, they found some of the wires discolored and damaged. Upon discovery, facility personnel contacted the vendor and initiated an inspection of installed CAMs with similar circuitry. (ORPS Report RL-WHC-WHC1100EM-1993-0011)

The follow-up investigation determined that the vendor had installed the incorrect type of wire in the internal heater circuitry. The Eberline CAM Model AMS-3A-1 has a heater for use in cold environments. The defective units had a blue-insulated wire instead of the required heat resistant Teflon-insulated wire used in the heater circuitry. (Facility personnel report that the unheated units should not be used in environments below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.) Facility personnel are conducting a root cause investigation concerning the wiring discrepancy and degradation.

Department of Energy facilities using Eberline Model AMS-3A-1 CAMs should determine the applicability of this event to their facilities. If applicable, facilities should contact Eberline personnel for resolution of any identified discrepancies. Eberline recommended that the defective CAMs at Hanford be returned to the manufacturer for repair or replacement.

Source: "Operating Experience Weekly
Summary"
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