

HAZARD ALERT

FLOOR OUTLET ELECTRICAL BOX'S

6 November 2020

REFERENCES:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19, 20, 21 & 27
 WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) – Regulations 34 – 38, 147 – 151 & 165
 CSH&W SA Document No. (9) V2 – Electrical Procedure

OBJECTIVE:

To communicate a safety issue recently identified regarding floor outlet electrical boxes and provide sites with recommendations to ensure hazards are identified, risks assessed, and effective control measures are developed and implemented.

BACKGROUND:

Recently an incident occurred where an electrical cord that was plugged into a floor outlet box was cut by one of the cable flaps, resulting in a short circuit and potential electric shock. The type of box is displayed below with a metal lid and two cable exit points with metal flaps to cover the holes when not in use. A warning sign under the lid clearly indicates that the flaps must be in a down position when in use. Research has also identified that over time the earthing cables within these floor outlet boxes that connect the body of the box and the lid can become dislodged or broken.



Photo 1:
 Cable exit points
 Cable flaps
 Floor outlet box

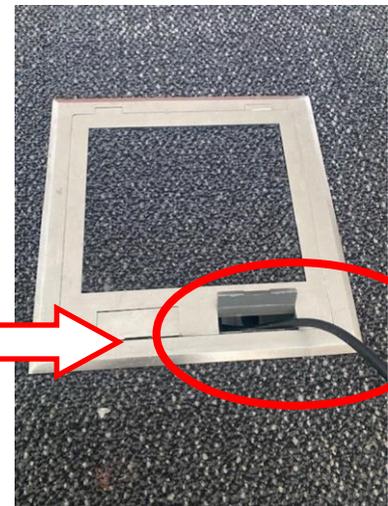


Photo 2:
 Incorrect installation
 as flap is in the up
 position when in use

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Identify whether your site has any floor outlet boxes. Note: there are numerous configuration types.
- If these are in place at your worksite, stop use of them in the short term through communication and signage.
- Undertake risk assessment to determine the need for these type boxes and if not required, permanently disconnect, using a licenced electrician and make safe.
- As a result of the controls identified through risk assessment, you may consider the following:
 - Engage a licenced electrician to inspect all floor outlet electrical boxes.
 - Ensure that training is provided particularly focusing on the instructions, ensuring the flap is in the down position when in use (where the worksite has these types).
 - Add the regular inspection of floor outlet boxes to your workplace inspections and/or electrical testing schedules.

For enquiries or further information please contact your WHS Consultant at CSHWSA