



ACCIDENT/INCIDENT ALERT

No. 10, February 2006

Safety check for Indalex Werner fibreglass extension stepladder

Note: *This alert is taken from an EnergyAustralia Network Division safety alert and is presented here as a service to New Zealand owners of these ladders.*

On 22 November 2005, an emergency services operator (EmSO) reported a fault that he noticed with the Indalex Werner fibreglass extension stepladder 1.8-3.0 m [stock line #178054]. The ladder was not in use at the time, and was stored inside the EmSO vehicle. The ladder had been in service for about 18 months, but did not get used very often.

Both of the rivets that form the hinge on each side of the ladder had broken and the large rivet top was missing. On the left side, the rivet had completely detached from the locating hole and on the right side the head had sheered off but was still fixed in the locating hole. [See photos over page.]

The Australian Logistics Council* and the ladder supplier have been informed and are

conducting a joint investigation. The supplier has indicated that there are no other reports of similar occurrences.

Recommendations

Whilst this is likely to be an isolated occurrence, as a precautionary measure and until the investigation results are available, the following is recommended:

- All owners or users of the Indalex Werner fibreglass extension stepladder 1.8-3.0 m are to physically inspect the ladder to check for wear in the hinge plates and riveted joints.
- If any rivets are broken, or the joint is 'loose or sloppy', the ladder should be replaced.
- Each time a ladder is used, it must be inspected for any signs of damage, splitting or major defects.

*The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) is a partnership between Australian governments and senior leaders in the logistics field including logistics users, suppliers, peak bodies and academics. ALC exists to lead the development of logistics in Australia and to create competitive advantage for Australian companies and the Australian economy.

Indalex Werner 1.8-3.0 m fibreglass extension stepladder



Head sheared off left-hand hinge rivet.



Right-hand hinge rivet with head sheared off still located in metal hinge - functioning as usual.



Normal hinge rivet arrangement.