

## PORTABLE LIGHT TOWERS SUPPLIED BY GENERATORS



**Problems have arisen on site where portable light towers, supplied by generators, have not been protected by residual current devices (RCD).**

In some circumstances, the portable light towers also have socket outlets installed which were not protected by RCD.

The Industry Standard for Electrical Installations on construction sites March 2002 Section 5.1, requires:

- Electrical socket outlets mounted on generators shall be protected by RCDs not exceeding 30mA.

Also the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3012 Electrical Installations – Construction and Demolition sites, Clause 2.4.6.2, requires all electrical equipment supplied from permanent wiring, shall be protected by a maximum rating RCD of 30mA.

RCDs must be tested for tripping current and time each calendar month, as per the Industry Standard for Electrical Installations on Construction Sites, Section 4.4.

It is important that the generator units are designed as such to allow the testing of RCDs as AS/NZS 3760 requires that equipment, without being dismantled, needs to be subjected to routine inspection and testing to detect obvious damage, wear or other conditions which might render it unsafe.