

Industry Bulletin – 25 January 2012

DC ISO-MAX Solar Connect DC Isolator – Switch Failures

Further to the bulletin released by Energy Safe Victoria (**ESV**) dated 26 October 2011, we provide the following update to the industry.

The approximate number of *DC ISO-MAX* Solar Connect DC Isolator switches reported to have failed to date is 28 out of approximately 25,000 that have been installed.

1. Results of expert investigation

- 1.1 Switches supplied by Eltech have been investigated by an independent expert specialising in switch design, testing and application.
- 1.2 The results of the investigation have shown that:
 - (a) Some switches have a defective switching mechanism resulting in a manually dependent slow make/slow break operation, which may produce a partial contact closure and arcing. Failure of such switches is likely to occur within minutes even at low currents. There is a risk that the switch and the enclosure may catch fire.
 - (b) Switches LS16, LS25 and LS32, operating at currents greater than 12A, are likely to overheat even with correctly operating switching mechanisms.

2. What should you do?

- 2.1 Owners should immediately shut down the PV system following the standard shutdown procedure. Note that Eltech Industries Pty Ltd is no longer trading. If a consumer suspects they have one of the affected units, they should have an electrician inspect and replace the DC isolators.