

# National EHS Alert

## Wilco Switches



**Schindler**

### Incident Detail

A worker went to do a repair on a recovery unit in NSW. He went to start to work in the pit area, and realized he needed extra equipment. He stopped the lift and opened the door on Level 1 and turned the safety switch off on top of the ladder in the pit. He closed the door again and went to get what he needed. When he returned, the lift was running. On further inspection, the stop switch at the top of the ladder had an internal fault (it was a Wilco stop switch).

All Wilco and Clipsal switches that are being used as stop switches, like the type pictured (left) below must be replaced. If you find a faulty stop switch it must be immediately replaced.

There have been multiple incidents where Wilco/Clipsal stop switches have failed and the lift has been operational when the switch is in the off position.

In 2009 it was identified that situations occur with rotary type of Wilco switches where you can turn the switch to the off position, but it doesn't actually turn off the power. The contacts inside the switch remain closed and don't open.

**The switch is like the one shown below:**



### Findings

- Units may enter our portfolio with Wilco switches installed.
- Workers may not be aware of the need to replace these switches.

### Corrective Actions

- If you find a faulty Wilco Switch immediately replace it, for your safety and others.
- If you find a Wilco switch that is not faulty please raise a repair request, so that it can be replaced.

### Key messages & lessons learnt

- There are known failures with rotary types of Wilco/Clipsal switches and they must be replaced if installed as a safety stop switch.