

THERMAL IMAGING

RISK MANAGEMENT ADVICE NOTE

New Zealand Fire Service statistics suggest that approximately 10% of fires are of “electrical origin”.

Whether insured or otherwise, the true cost of a serious electrical fire to your business can be enormous. In fact, it has been suggested that barely 50% of companies ever truly recover from a major fire.

Preventative and predictive maintenance programmes can go a long way towards identifying faults in switchboards, motors and mechanical equipment. Implementation of such programmes can greatly minimise repair and labour costs and allow timely rectification of faults before failure, or even fire, occurs.

Thermal Imaging (Infrared Radiation Thermometry) has emerged as an effective predictive maintenance technology and works by identifying variations that can lead to equipment failure. By using a different spectrum of light, problems that are invisible to the naked eye become clear with a thermal image. By regular inspection, problems can be identified and repairs can be undertaken **before** damage occurs, thus avoiding damage to plant and equipment and, ultimately production losses.

In addition to the identification of electrical faults, the technology can be used to determine the mechanical health of rotating machinery e.g. bearings, couplings, gearboxes etc.

QBE’s experience has shown that these events can occur in new and older buildings, and any occupation. Though primarily used for operations where the electrical loading is higher than normal, there are benefits to be had from using in older buildings, warehouses and the like, where there have been numerous tenancy changes over the years and renovations completed.

A number of major electrical contractors and engineering consultancies have now equipped themselves with the highly specialised cameras required to undertake this process. The following provides a summary and is correct as at the time of print.

(For further reference, the New Zealand Association of Professional Thermographers now have a website up and running. The website is being updated and amended as it is developed and gives guidelines to standards required to become a member, and a members listing. This list is not comprehensive for all companies involved in Thermal Imaging. (Information and contact details can be found at – www.thermography.org.nz.)

Further information can be provided by QBE if required.

- **NZ Leak & Heat Loss Detection Limited** (Nationwide)
09 814 9457
www.findaleak.co.nz

- **Newpower Electrical** (Nationwide)
0800 800 155
www.newpower.co.nz
- **ISM Solutions** (Auckland based)
0800 476 800
www.ismsolutions.co.nz
- **SKF** (Nationwide)
07 849 3841
www.skf.co.nz
- **Lambert Condition Monitoring** (Hastings based)
027 445 6548
- **Infrascan Limited** (Auckland based)
021 909 725
www.infrascan.co.nz
- **Connell Wagner** (Nationwide)
0800 CONWAG
www.conwag.com
- **Aotea Electric** (Nationwide)
www.aoteaelectric.co.nz
- **Infrared Solutions Limited** (Napier based)
027 223 7858
www.infraredsolutions.com
- **Hot Shots NZ** (Whangarei based)
021 421 071 or 021 117 6622
www.hotshotsnz.co.nz
- **Thermal Surveys NZ Limited** (Wellington)
04 383 6434 or 027 685 5099
www.thermalsurveys.co.nz

This sort of damage is preventable:



Disclaimer

The purpose of this Risk Management Advice Note is to assist you in minimising potential loss from exposures which need prompt consideration.

The Advice Note does not imply that all other exposures were under control at the time of inspection.

The options contained in this Advice Note are not intended to be a substitute for appropriate professional advice in relation to any matter. In achieving compliance with these items, fire protection equipment and systems should be installed to comply with the requirements of the relevant local, and/or Government authority. Any equipment installed should also comply with the requirements of the relevant New Zealand Standards and Codes.

No responsibility is accepted by QBE Insurance (International) Limited for use of this Advice Note or for the information contained herein by any third party.

Should you require clarification, information or further advice in relation to this Advice Note, the options, or advice in general related to risk management issues, QBE Insurance (International) Limited is available to assist upon request.

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