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GE Industrial Systems

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March 10, 2003

MIKE CLOYD  
POWELL ELECTRICAL MFG CO  
8550 MOSLEY  
HOUSTON, TX 77075

Subject: Case Number: C07-87973 TO C07-87979 MicroVersaTrip Trip Units - Fail to Trip

## Product Safety Alert - Immediate Action is Required

We are contacting you because you have been shipped product(s) containing MicroVersaTrip, Plus or PM trip units. We have determined that there is a potential for the failure of a resistor in the trip unit. If the resistor fails, the trip units will be unable to trip in the event of an overload or fault. Serious personal injury or property damage could result from a failure to trip. The details of product affected and how to identify trips are described in the attached Product Service Alert.

In order to assure the safe and reliable operation of MicroVersaTrip trip units, GE Industrial Systems will assist or provide services as necessary to assure that potentially defective trip units are identified and tested or replaced. The trip units in question were manufactured between December 26, 2000 and June 21, 2002. We are asking your assistance in locating these trip units and correcting any potential problems. These trip units must be tested or replaced as soon as possible, as outlined in the attached Product Safety Alert. Please find your requisition number, purchase order number, breaker and trip unit catalog numbers on the included attachment.

If you are not the responsible person for this equipment, or the equipment is no longer at this location, it is imperative that you forward a copy of this letter and the attached Product Safety Alert to the person who is now responsible for these products. Please notify the Product Safety Alert team as to who this person is so that we can track the effectiveness of this notification. Please refer to the case numbers, C07-87973 – C07-78979 with all correspondence.

The circumstances leading to this notice are regrettable and we are sure the required actions are more than an inconvenience to you. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Product Safety Alert team, identified in the attached Product Service Alert. If they are unable to help you directly, they will refer the question to the proper person for a prompt response. We appreciate your assistance.

*Carmine G. Giglio*

Carmine G. Giglio  
Safety Alert Resolution Engineer  
MVTPSA Post Sale Service

*David J. West*

David J. West  
Manager, Customer Satisfaction

Attachment (7)

**C07-87973 – C07-87979**

# Product Safety Alert

## Immediate Action Required

Subject: MicroVersaTripPlus™ and MicroVersaTripPM™ Trip Units

GE Industrial Systems has identified a potential defective component condition in MicroVersaTrip trip units used with Low Voltage Circuit Breakers. **These trip units must be tested immediately per the attached procedure. GE will supply replacement MicroVersaTrip trip units for any units that fail the prescribed tests.**

The issue involves a potential defect in an electronic component that was purchased from a supplier. The defect compromises the seal of the part, which may allow moisture and contaminants in the air to enter the part resulting in corrosion and potential component failure. This condition, if present, will result in a failure of the breaker to trip. Based on field data and reliability modeling this potential defect is an infant mortality issue and should present itself within the first 35 days of energization.

***This condition, if present, will result in a failure of the breaker to trip under overload, ground fault, and short circuit conditions. Such a condition may result in severe property damage, personal injury, or loss of life.***

Products affected are all MicroVersaTrip Plus and MicroVersaTripPM trip units with 5 buttons on the display, manufactured after December 26, 2000 (Date Codes E052&, P052&, and BN052&) and prior to Jun 21, 2002 (Date Codes E225&, P225&, and BN225&) when used in:

- Power Break® Insulated-Case Circuit Breakers
- Power Break® II Insulated-Case Circuit Breakers
- Low-Voltage Power Circuit Breaker Conversion Kits (MVT trip units only)

Other similar trip units (however no field failures have been recorded) are used in:

- Type AKR Low-Voltage Power Circuit Breakers
- Type WavePro™ Low Voltage Power Circuit Breakers
- J and K Frame Circuit Breakers with MicroVersaTrip™ Trip Units
- R-Frame Molded-Case Circuit Breakers

For a complete list of catalog numbers affected see the attachments.

*Power+ Units used on Power Break II, WavePro™ circuit breakers, and in ProTrip Conversion kits are not affected due to different construction, which does not include the component in question. Four button MicroVersaTrip Plus and MicroVersaTrip PM units used on Spectra RMS™ molded case circuit breakers are not affected due to different construction which does not include the component in question.*

**Required Actions:**

**1 - Determine the date code of the MicroVersaTrip trip unit.** The date code of trip unit manufacture is found on the front (gray) label of the trip unit in the upper right hand corner of the main label and directly below the keypad. This code can be viewed from the front of the circuit breaker. The trip unit cover may need to be opened to see the date code. Date codes will consist of the letters "E", "P", and "BN" followed by three numbers and the "&" sign. Examples are E052&, E101& through E152&, and E201& through E225&.

**2 - Test trip unit for proper operation.**

**Case 1 - Trip units that have been energized for 35 days or more:**

Remove the circuit breaker from service and test the trip unit and flux shifter operation per the attached test procedure. If you do not have the appropriate test kit please contact Safety Alert Administrator identified at the bottom of this Product Safety Alert

**Case 2 - Trip units that have been energized for less than 35 days or not yet been energized:**  
Contact the Safety Alert Administrator for other instructions.

Any test failures should be reported to the Safety Alert Administrator. We will arrange to provide replacement trip units in accordance with the end user needs.

**3 - Replace defective trip unit.** The breaker must be de-energized and open during replacement of the trip unit. Instructions for Trip Unit installation should be followed and are furnished with the replacement trip unit.

**4. - Notify GE of the test results.** In an effort to ensure full coverage of this advisory please provide the test results (pass and fail) to the Safety Alert Administrator per the instructions on the test procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the identification of affected trip units, the attached test procedure, the replacement of trip units or any other questions about this Product Safety Alert, please feel free to contact at the address or phone listed below.

**Required Field Action – If these products are no longer in your possession:**

Please forward a copy of this notice, along with any identifying documentation, immediately to the person or organization that you transferred the product to. Please provide the Safety Alert Administrator, by return mail, with a copy of the forward notification so we may track the effectiveness of the Alert.

The circumstances leading to this notice are regrettable. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact GE Post Sale Service for answers at the number below. If they are unable to help you directly, they will refer the question to the proper person for a prompt response. We appreciate your assistance in eliminating this potential safety risk.

**Contact Information:**

Safety Alert Administrator – Post Sales Service

GE Industrial Systems.

41 Woodford Avenue

Plainville, CT 06062

TEL: (888) GE-RESOLve (888 437-3765). Dial menu choices 1, 7

FAX: (860) 747-7000

## MicroVersaTrip<sup>®</sup> Product Safety Alert Field Test Procedure

Required Equipment: GE TVRMS2 Test Kit for MicroVersaTrip Trip Units

### Preliminary Arrangements:

- Determine the quantity and catalog numbers of the trip units within the specified date code range at the site.
  - Determine the quantity and catalog numbers of trip units energized less than 35 days that need to be replaced.
  - Determine the quantity and catalog numbers of trip units energized more than 35 days that need to be tested.
- Determine when outage date(s) when affected circuit breakers and trip units are available for service interruption.
- Contact the MicroVersaTrip Product Safety Alert (GE Resolve) team to request logistical assistance (i.e. spares, test kits or field service techs).
- Secure TVRMS2 MicroVersaTrip test kit(s) for testing of affected circuit breakers
- Arrange for qualified field personnel to test and/or replace affected trip units
- Determine any special customer requirements for the replacement of trip units

***Warning: Only qualified personnel should be allowed to safely connect a test kit to a trip unit on an energized circuit breaker. Dangerous voltages are present within an energized circuit breaker and within the structure to which the circuit breaker is connected. Personnel connecting test equipment to energized circuit breakers and performing tests should be fully aware of the existence of dangerous voltages and how to safely conduct themselves during the testing.***

Note: To test a MicroVersaTrip trip unit on a circuit breaker, an interruption of electrical power will be required. A successful trip test will result in a few minutes of interruption.

Note: If the trip unit fails the trip test (or has been energized less than 100 days), the trip unit will need to be replaced. The length of a replacement outage will require 15 to 45 minutes, or more depending on how much testing is required to setup and commission the new trip unit.

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