openreach

ISIS Practice
For engineers and contractors

AEI/AEC/B244

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Unapproved Visual Light Source (VLS) devices

Important information regarding the use of unapproved Visual Light Source (VLS) devices

About this document ...

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Content approval

This is the Issue 3 of this document.
The information contained in this document was approved on 16-Jan-2023 by Jonathan Cull, Fibre Network Specialist

Version History

Version No.	Date	Author	Comments
Issue 3	16-Jan-2023	Lauren Fleming	New Author and Approver
Issue 2	12-Mar-2020	Evan Rogers	New Author and Approver
Issue 1	05-May-2015	. .	New AEC (AT390)

Table of Content

1 *Executive Summary:*

Issued on behalf of Keith James and Timothy Wyatt

It has been discovered that some engineers and contractors have been using Visual Fault locators also known as the Red light source that have been purchased outside of the proper procurement procedure. These devices are not within the approved safe power output and may cause damage to eyes. They have not been tested, appraised and approved for use on Openreach's own or any Openreach maintained network.

We realise that the intention is not to harm but to get a greater distance range from a tool that will identify or prove continuity of a fibre

- Openreach policy is clear that we do not use tools or test equipment that has not been approved
- There is no technical reason to exceed the 1mW maximum power output of the approved VLS
- Activities such as this could cause injuries to third parties as well as the user. It may result in disciplinary action being taken in certain circumstances

2 *Status:*

- Safety
- Working Practice

3 *Scope:*

- All

The target audience is for all Openreach engineers and contractors working on the fibre Network on the mainland UK and BT Ireland engineers and contractors working on the Access Network in Northern Ireland.

4 *Detail:*

Recently there have been a number of occasions where Engineers and contractors have been using Visual fault Locators (Red Light Source) on Openreach's networks which have been purchased independently from places such as internet auction sites.

Some of these devices have been way above the power level where a laser becomes dangerous (1mW). A more disturbing trend is that the devices are marked as safe Class One laser but actually the output deems it not to be so. The devices found are imported products not from known and trusted Optical equipment suppliers.

The VLS BT supply as a portfolio item is Visible Light Source 1B item code 129509 which is a 1mW device that has been vigorously checked for safety to ensure that no injuries are incurred in its specified use. It is a class one laser therefore is safe for use on our networks without causing damage to anyone's eyesight if used correctly and not tampered with or modified. Please refer to the safety document available via the link below; you must comply with this document.

The products purchased independently mentioned above are cheap, dangerous and poor quality, some are 30mW (exposure to this for 1/100 of a second may cause permanent eye damage). It is against Openreach's policy to use these hazardous devices on BT's networks and remember although cheap they really are extremely dangerous so stay safe and look after yours and others eyesight by only using approved tools and devices.

Contractors should refer to the AFL device VF12 or a device with the same approved specifications as the VF12.

5 *Training:*

Training has been considered. L & D have been made aware of this situation and will put more emphasis on the correct policy

6 *Quality Standards:*

Quality standards have been considered and changes are not required.

7 *Accreditation:*

"Accreditation has been considered and changes are not required.

8 *Quality Checks and Independent Audit:*

QPW checking and IA checks have been considered and changes are not required.

9 *Planning Policy:*

Planning Policy has been considered and changes are not required.

10 *Contract Impact:*

The information in this document is issued to Contractors on the following basis.

- For action

  Contractors should refer to the AFL device VF12 or a device with the same approved specifications as the VF12.

11 *Reference Documentation:*

11.1 ISIS:

SFY/CSP/B039 - Safe Working Practices for Optical Fibre Systems

Considered and no changes are required

11.2 Manufacturer's Instructions:

Considered and no changes are required

11.3 E- Assistant:

Considered and no changes are required

11.4 Quality:

Considered and no changes are required

11.5 Accreditation Documents:

Considered and no changes are required

11.6 FPQ:

Considered and no changes are required

11.7 Supply Chain:

Considered and no changes are required

11.8 Communications:

- To cascade as appropriate

END OF DOCUMENT