

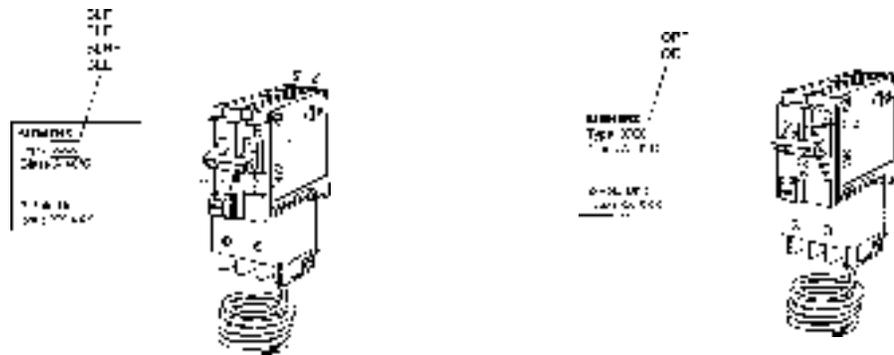
December 11, 1998

Siemens Energy & Automation Inc. Announce Voluntary Recall of 2-Pole GFCI Circuit Breaker

Subject: Potential overheating of internal connection in 2-pole Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) Circuit Breakers

Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc. has recently discovered that a process change in the manufacturing of its Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breakers, implemented after March 1, 1996 and discontinued on April 22, 1998, may not conform to specifications. We have evaluated the performance characteristics of this process and have found it to be unsuitable, possibly resulting in overheating conditions. An overheating condition may result in a loss of ground fault protection. The loss of ground fault protection could present an electric shocking hazard, which can result in death or serious injury.

You can identify a Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breaker by comparing it to the following illustration. The GFCI circuit breaker may be located in a commercial electrical panelboard, a residential electrical panel box or in a separate enclosure near the installation of hydro-massage, spa, or hot tub equipment. Open the door to the electrical panel box or separate enclosure and look for a 2-pole GFCI circuit breaker.



The distinguishing feature of a Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breaker is the presence of a white, square button on the face of the circuit breaker with the word “TEST” imprinted on it. A product identification sticker will be found adhered to the center of the breaker, next to the “TEST” button. The top of the sticker will identify Siemens as the manufacturer. Directly below the manufacturer designation will be one of the following UL/CSA Types: QPF, MP-GT, QE, BLF, BLHF, BLE, or BLEH. A 2-pole unit will have 2 switch handles connected by a metal tie bar and the bottom of the product identification sticker contains the phrase “2-Pole Unit.”

Once it is determined that you have a Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breaker, switch the GFCI handle to the “OFF” position.

RECALL NOTICE

RCL99-04

The next step is to determine if the Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breaker is subject to this recall. The date code has been printed on the right side of the circuit breaker in white acrylic paint. Inspection of the date code requires the assistance of a licensed electrician. Please contact the Siemens Response Center at 1 (888) 993-3396. The Response Center's hours of operation are Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and midnight Eastern Time and Saturday and Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You will be given the name of a local electrician who will inspect the GFCI circuit breaker and, if necessary, will replace the unit free of charge.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT attempt to remove the steel cover behind the door that surrounds the circuit breakers in the electrical panel or separate enclosure and do NOT attempt to remove the GFCI circuit breaker. Removal of the steel cover and the GFCI circuit breaker should only be attempted by a licensed electrician familiar with the construction and operation of the equipment and hazards involved. The GFCI circuit breaker contains hazardous voltage, which can cause death or serious injury.

This action is being taken to alert you of a potentially hazardous condition in the application of Siemens 2-pole GFCI circuit breakers. Your immediate attention and cooperation is essential to this recall effort and your safety and is greatly appreciated. Siemens sincerely regret any inconvenience that this may cause.