REPORT ON

Environmental Testing of the McMurdo Limited 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with internal GPS position encoded data and 121.5 MHz Radio locating device

Report No: SX608213 December 2001

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| REPORT ON: | Environmental Testing of the McMurdo Limite 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with internal GPS position encoded data and 121.5 MHz Radio locating device | |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| | Report No: SX608213 December 2001 | |
| PREPARED FOR: | McMurdo Ltd Silverpoint Airport Service Road Hilsea Portsmouth Hampshire PO3 5PB | |
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| | | Copy No: |



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Testing of the McMurdo Limited 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with internal GPS position encoded data and 121.5 MHz Radio locating device

Project Manager: M J Osborne

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1.1 **STATUS**

MANUFACTURING DESCRIPTION Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)

OBJECTIVE To assess the performance of the McMurdo

Limited 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with internal GPS position encoded data and 121.5 MHz Radio locating device when subjected to the specified levels of climatic

and mechanical stress

MANUFACTURER McMurdo Limited

SPECIFICATIONS ETSI EN 300 066 V1.3.1 (2001-01)

RTCM 5-97/SC110-STD Version 1.0 (1997-02)

BS EN 60945 : 1997 MIL-STD-810F (1997-04)

ASSESSMENT SERVICES

REGISTRATION NUMBER SX608213

QUANTITY OF ITEMS Three

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified

INCOMING RELEASE Not released

DISPOSAL Returned to Customer

DATE 16th October 2001

ORDER NUMBER 702907

START OF TEST 6th June 2001

FINISH OF TEST 16th October 2001

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1.2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

| Report Section | Test | Brief Result Summary |
|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 2.1 | Dry Heat | Performance checks completed satisfactorily. |
| 2.2 | Damp Heat | Performance checks completed satisfactorily. |
| 2.3 | Low Temperature | Unit failed to operate correctly during, retest carried out and performance checks completed satisfactorily. |
| 2.4 | Vibration | Performance checks completed satisfactorily. |
| 2.5 | Ruggedness | Performance checks completed satisfactorily. |
| 2.6 | Drop | Self-test failure on both units tested, damage to battery packs noted. Performance checks completed satisfactorily after retest. |
| 2.7 & 2.10 | Temporary Immersion | Malfunction during test. Re-test performed successfully. |
| 2.8 & 2.9 | Thermal Shock | Malfunction during test. Test repeated satisfactorily. |
| 2.11 | Altitude | Performance checks completed satisfactorily. |

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1.3 **TEST OBSERVATIONS**

The McMurdo Limited Personal Locator Beacon was subjected to various climatic and mechanical test cor ditions specified in McMurdo Limited Type Approval Specification 85-901V, Issue C. The tests were performed in accordance with the following specifications:

ETSI EN 300 066 V1.3.1 (2001-01) RTCM 5-97/SC110-STD Version 1.0 (1997-02) BS EN 60945 : 1997 MIL-STD-810F (1997-04)

Performance checks were carried out by TUV Product Service Ltd personnel.

Three separate samples were provided for testing. One sample for climatic testing, which was modified to have an external connector in place of the antenna, to allow conducted measurements to be performed during testing. Two samples were provided for mechanical and immersion testing. One sample fitted with a Class 1 battery pack (allowing usage to -40°C), the other fitted with a Class 2 battery pack (allowing usage to -20°C).

Climatic Test Samples

The PLB functioned satisfactorily during the Dry Heat and Damp Heat testing and the required performance checks were within the specified limits. The unit failed to operate correctly during the Low Temperature test and testing was halted. The fault was found to be caused by a faulty component and the PLB was successfully re-tested.

Mechanical Test Samples

No damage or deterioration was observed after the Vibration and Ruggedness testing and the required performance checks were successfully carried out. After the Drop test the performance check did not meet the specification requirements. Both the Class 1 and Class 2 battery packs had split during the test. Both units were pre-production models and were found to be faulty. The Self-test failure was caused by a circuit board modification on the pre-production samples tested, causing a component to become detached. The customer advised that production models will not be affected by this, as the circuit boards have been redesigned to incorporate the required modification. The battery packs were also pre-production models using temporary sealing methods. Final production battery packs will be ultrasonically welded, the test was repeated with ultrasonically welded battery packs. The repeated Drop test was successful.

During the Temporary Immersion test the units malfunctioned. The Thermal Shock test was performed, after an additional Drop test. It was thought the Drop test may have damaged the units and caused the Temporary Immersion failure, a further malfunction was recorded. A fault with the manufacture of the PLB sealing gasket was diagnosed and rectified, therefore it was not considered necessary to perform the Drop test prior to the re-tests. Both Thermal Shock and Temporary Immersion tests were successfully repeated. The Immersion and Altitude tests were completed satisfactorily and the performance checks completed successfully.

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TEST DETAILS

Environmental Testing of The Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)

Test Engineer : C Hedley A Douglas L Spencer

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2. **TEST DETAILS**

2.1 DRY HEAT

2.1.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.2.2

2.1.2 Date of Test

6th – 7th June 2001

2.1.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|------------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Rel A | 0030 | 13.8.01 |
| Data Logger | Anville | 2569 | 13.8.01 |
| Frequency & | 5372A | EMC 1766 | 08.03.02 |
| Time Interval | | | |
| Analyser | | | |
| Logic Analyser | 1613D | EMC 1767 | |
| Signal | SMX | EMC 1765 | 10.01.02 |
| Generator | | | |
| 10dB Attenuator | 47-10-34 | 4482 | 26.07.01 |
| 10dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC 1601 | 07.04.02 |
| 3dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC 1605 | 07.04.02 |
| Crystal Detector | 8470B | 4209 | 18.10.01 |
| Mixer | M2TC | EMC 1570 | 09.02.02 |
| Low Pass Filter | WLJ 1.4C9EF | - | - |
| Spectrum | 8566A | EMC 772 | 05.09.01 |
| Analyser | | | |

2.1.4 **Equipment Under Test**

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack. The sample was modified to provide an external connector to allow the performance checks to be carried out.

2.1.5 Test Conditions

The PLB was installed in the climatic chamber and connected to the test equipment required to carry out the performance check. The PLB was not operational.

- 1) Ambient to +70°C in 1 h
- 2) +70°C for 14 h
- 3) +70°C to +55°C within 30 minutes
- 4) The PLB was switched on and remained operational for 2 h 30 minutes at +55°C
- 5) During the last 30 minutes at +55°C performance checks were carried out.
- +55°C to ambient in 1 h.
 PLB exposed to ambient temperature for 3 hours prior to performance of next test.

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2.1.6 Results of Test

The temperature monitored in the chamber during this test are shown in Appendix 1.

The results of the performance checks at $+55^{\circ}\text{C}$ are as follows:

| | Parameter | Measurement | Limit |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 406 MHz Signal | Characteristic Frequency | 406.027479 MHz | Between 406.027 – 406.029 MHz |
| | Output Power | 36.946 dBm | 37 dBm ± 2dB |
| 121.5 MHz | Carrier Frequency | 121.497404 MHz | 121.5 MHz ± 3.5 kHz |
| Signal | Output Power | 19.35 dBm | 17 dBm ± 3dB |

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2.2 DAMP HEAT

2.2.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.2.3

2.2.2 Date of Test

7th – 8th June 2001

2.2.3 <u>Test Equipment Used</u>

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Fisons 5 | 0643 | 03.07.01 |
| Data Logger | Anville | 2569 | 03.07.01 |
| Frequency & Time | 5372A | EMC | 08.03.02 |
| Interval Analyser | | 1766 | |
| Logic Analyser | 1613D | EMC | - |
| | | 1767 | |
| Signal Generator | SMX | EMC | 10.01.02 |
| | | 1765 | |
| 10dB Attenuator | 47-10-34 | 4482 | 26.07.01 |
| 10dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC | 07.04.02 |
| | | 1601 | |
| 3dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC | 07.04.02 |
| | | 1605 | |
| Crystal Detector | 8470B | 4209 | 18.10.01 |
| Mixer | M2TC | EMC | 09.02.02 |
| | _ | 1570 | |
| Low Pass Filter | WLJ 1.4C9EF | _ | - |
| Spectrum Analyser | 8566A | EMC 772 | 05.09.01 |

2.2.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack. The sample was modified to provide an external connector to allow the performance checks to be carried out.

2.2.5 Test Conditions

The PLB was installed in the climatic chamber and connected to the test equipment required to carry out the performance check. The PLB was not operational.

- 1) Ambient to +40°C with 93% relative humidity (rh), over 3 h
- 2) +40°C with 93% rh for 16 h
- 3) The PLB was switched on and remained operational for 2 h 30 minutes at +40°C with 93% rh
- 4) During the last 30 minutes at +40°C and 93% rh performance checks were carried out.
- 5) Returned to ambient in 1 h.
- 6) PLB exposed to ambient temperature and humidity until any moisture had dispersed.

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2.2.6 Results of Test

The temperature and humidity monitored in the chamber during this test are shown in Appendix 2.

The results of the performance checks at +40°C and 93% rh are as follows:

| | Parameter | Measurement | Limit |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 406 MHz Signal | Characteristic Frequency | 406.027411 MHz | Between 406.027 – 406.029 MHz |
| | Output Power | 37.21 dBm | 37 dBm ± 2dB |
| 121.5 MHz | Carrier Frequency | 121.498041 MHz | 121.5 MHz ± 3.5 kHz |
| Signal | Output Power | 19.30 dBm | 17 dBm ± 3dB |

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2.3 LOW TEMPERATURE

2.3.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.2.4

2.3.2 Date of Test

10th - 12th June 2001

2.3.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Rel A | 0030 | 13.08.01 |
| Data Logger | Anville | 2569 | 13.08.01 |
| Chamber | VM04/100 | 1755 | 25.09.01 |
| Frequency & Time | 5372A | EMC | 08.03.02 |
| Interval Analyser | | 1766 | |
| Logic Analyser | 1613D | EMC | - |
| | | 1767 | |
| Signal Generator | SMX | EMC | 10.01.02 |
| | | 1765 | |
| 10dB Attenuator | 47-10-34 | 4482 | 26.07.01 |
| 10dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC | 07.04.02 |
| | | 1601 | |
| 3dB Attenuator | HFP-50N | EMC | 07.04.02 |
| | | 1605 | |
| Crystal Detector | 8470B | 4209 | 18.10.01 |
| Mixer | M2TC | EMC | 09.02.02 |
| | | 1570 | |
| Low Pass Filter | WLJ 1.4C9EF | - | - |
| Spectrum Analyser | 8566A | EMC 772 | 05.09.01 |

2.3.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack. The sample was modified to provide an external connector to allow the performance checks to be carried out.

2.3.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

The PLB was installed in the climatic chamber and connected to the test equipment required to carry out the performance check. The PLB was not operational.

- 1) Ambient to -40°C in 1 h
- 2) -40°C for 15 h
- 3) The PLB was switched on but ceased to operate soon afterwards.
- 4) -40°C to ambient

2.3.6 Results of Test

The temperature monitored in the chamber during this test are shown in Appendix 3.

The PLB failed to operate correctly at -40°C so the test was aborted. The unit was returned to the customers representative for investigation. See Incident Report SX608213/01 in Appendix 7.

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2.3.7 Repeat Test Conditions

The PLB, with the faulty component replaced, was installed in the climatic chamber and connected to the test equipment required to carry out the performance check.

- 1) Ambient to -40°C
- 2) -40°C for 13.5 h
- 3) The PLB was switched on and remained operational for 2 h 30 minutes at -40°C
- 4) Performance checks carried out during final 30 minutes at -40°C
- 5) -40°C to ambient in 1 hour
- 6) PLB exposed to normal room temperature for 3 hours.

2.3.8 Results of Retest

The results of the performance checks at -40°C are as follows:

| | Parameter | Measurement | Limit |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 406 MHz Signal | Characteristic Frequency | 406.027544 MHz | Between 406.027 – 406.029 MHz |
| | Output Power | 36.924 dBm | 37 dBm ± 2dB |
| 121.5 MHz | Carrier Frequency | 121.500900 MHz | 121.5 MHz ± 3.5 kHz |
| Signal | Output Power | 14.34 dBm | 17 dBm ± 3dB |

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2.4 VIBRATION

2.4.1 Specification Reference

RTCM 5-97/SC110 Appendix 5

2.4.2 Date of Test

7th June 2001

2.4.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|------------------|-----------|--------|----------------------|
| Shaker | VP85 | 1149 | 08.07.01 |
| Accelerometer | 224C | 1533 | 09.10.01 |
| Controller | DVC 40005 | 2583 | 15.08.01 |
| Accelerometer | 224C | 1610 | 03.07.01 |
| Shaker | 824 | 821 | 23.11.01 |
| Charge Amplifier | 2626 | 4393 | 06.11.01 |
| Controller | MP VXI | 4264 | 30.09.01 |

2.4.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack and 406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack.

2.4.5 Test Conditions

The units were fixed to the vibration table using a clamp ring. The units was subjected to the following sinusoidal vibration levels in each of their three orthogonal axes:

| Frequency (Hz) | Peak Amplitude (mm) |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 4 – 10 | 2.5 |
| 10 – 15 | 0.8 |
| 15 – 25 | 0.4 |
| 25 – 33 | 0.2 |

The units were subjected to vibration for 30 minutes in each axis. Upon completion of the test a visual inspection was carried out along with the Self-Test (Referred to in the specification as the 'Aliveness Test').

2.4.6 Results of Test

A typical vibration plot is included in Appendix 4.

No damage to the units was found during the inspection. The Self-Test was also completed successfully. Neither PLB was activated during the vibration test.

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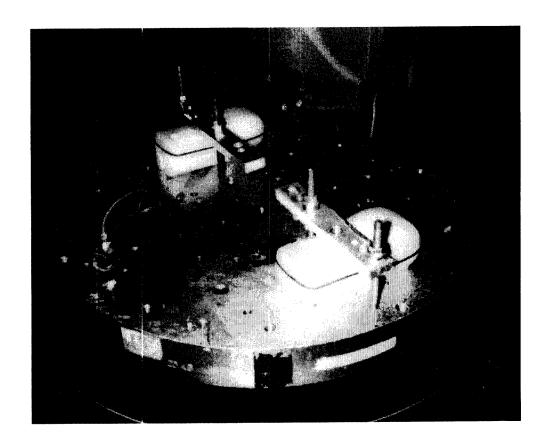


Figure 1 - Personal Locator Beacons mounted for vibration in the vertical axis

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2.5 RUGGEDNESS

2.5.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.4

2.5.2 Date of Test

8th June 2001

2.5.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| Shaker | 824 | 0821 | 23.11.01 |
| Accelerometer | 224C | 1610 | 03.07.01 |
| Charge Amplifier | 2620 | 4393 | 06.11.01 |
| Controller | MP VXI | 4264 | 30.09.01 |

2.5.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack and 406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack.

2.5.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

The units were fixed to the shaker using a clamp ring, with the battery pack flat to the shaker. The following profile was applied to the test samples:

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Peak acceleration} & 98 \ \mbox{m/s}^2 \pm 10 \ \% \\ \mbox{Pulse duration} & 18 \ \mbox{ms} \pm 20 \ \% \\ \mbox{Wave shape} & \mbox{Half-cycle sine wave} \end{array}$

Test axis Vertical Number of bumps 4000

Upon completion of the ruggedness test the units were examined for signs of damage and the Self-test performed

2.5.6 Results of Test

A plot of the input for the Ruggedness test is included in Appendix 5.

The units did not automatically activate during the test. No damage or mechanical deterioration was observed. The Self-test was successfully performed on both units.

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2.6 DROP TEST

2.6.1 Specification Reference

BS EN 60945 Clause 8.6.1

2.6.2 Date(s) of Test

13th June 2001 15th June 2001

2.6.3 <u>Test Equipment Used</u>

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Tape Measure | RS 5M | 3239 | - |
| Test Surface | Wooden Surface | 2047 | - |

2.6.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack and 406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack.

2.6.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

Each PLB was subjected to a series of 6 drops, one on each face of the unit, from a height of 1 m. On completion of the Drop test the units were examined for signs of damage and the Self-Test was performed.

2.6.6 Results of Test

Both units failed to display the 'Test OK' light on completion of the Self-Test. The battery pack of each unit had split during the drop test.

The test samples were returned to the customer's representative to investigate the fault. See Incident Report SX608213/02 in Appendix 7.

2.6.7 Retest Conditions

Each PLB (with the detached component fixed in place and using an ultrasonically welded battery pack) was subjected to a series of 6 drops, one on each face of the unit, from a height of 1 m.

2.6.8 Results of Retest

Both units were examined after the drop test and no visible damage was found. The Self-Test was successfully performed on each unit.

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2.7 TEMPORARY IMMERSION

2.7.1 Specification Reference

BS EN 60945 Clause 8.9.3

2.7.2 <u>Date of Test</u>

19th June 2001

2.7.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|----------------|-----------|--------|----------------------|
| Immersion Tank | 940 Litre | - | - |
| Thermocouple | T-Type | 4599 | 01.11.01 |
| Thermometer | Digitron | 4057 | 22.02.02 |
| Hygrometer | Rotronic | 2129 | 17.08.01 |
| Barometer | Druck | 1091 | 21.06.01 |
| Tape | RS | 2017 | - |
| Timer | RS | 3913 | 01.07.01 |

2.7.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack (Class 1) and 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack (Class 2).

2.7.5 Test Conditions

Both test samples were strapped to a weighted fixture and completely immersed in water for 5 minutes so that:

- 1) The highest point of the PLB was 1 m below the surface of the water.
- 2) The water temperature did not differ from that of the equipment by more than 5 K.

2.7.6 Results of Test

After 5 minutes of submersion it was noted that the red LED on the Class 1 PLB had lit , the test samples were removed from the water. The red LED went out and the green LED lit up. A high pitched tone was also emitted from the Class 1 unit. The attempt to switch off the unit was unsuccessful so the battery was removed from the unit.

The Class 2 sample was inspected, this unit had not operated automatically. It was not possible to perform the Self-Test, nor would the unit switch on. The battery was removed from the test samp e.

The test samples were returned to the customer for inspection. See Incident Report SX608213/03 in Appendix 7.

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2.8 THERMAL SHOCK

2.8.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.7

2.8.2 Date of Test

19th June 2001

2.8.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|--------------|------------|--------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Gallenkamp | 1483 | 27.11.01 |
| Chamber | Ministrat | 1086 | 15.08.01 |
| Measure | RS 5M | 2017 | - |
| Thermocouple | T-Type | 4598 | 01.11.01 |
| Thermometer | Digitron | 4058 | 22.02.02 |

2.8.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack (Class 1) and 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack (Class 2).

2.8.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

It was thought that the Drop test performed, prior to the Temporary Immersion test failure, may have affected the PLB's ability to remain watertight. Therefore a Drop test was carried out prior to the Thermal Shock test. The units remained fully operational after this Drop test.

Both units were strapped to a weighted fixture. The test samples were placed in a climatic chamber at a temperature of +65°C for 1 hour. The test samples were then submerged in water at a temperature of +20°C, at a depth of 10 cm \pm 10 mm, measured from the highest point of the PLB's. The test samples were submerged for 1 hour.

2.8.6 Results of Retest

Once removed from the water it was observed that the red LED on each sample was lit, denoting a failure of the test. The customer's representatives took the samples away for investigation.

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2.9 THERMAL SHOCK (Repeat)

2.9.1 Specification Reference

ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.7

2.9.2 Date of Test

15th October 2001

2.9.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|----------------|------------|--------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Gallenkamp | 1483 | 27.12.01 |
| Data Logger | Anville | 2569 | 27.12.01 |
| Thermometer | Digitron | 4057 | 22.02.02 |
| Thermocouple | T-Type | 4595 | 01.11.01 |
| Hygrometer | Rotronic | 2565 | 21.11.01 |
| Barometer | Druck | 1091 | 10.07.02 |
| Timer | RS | 3722 | 07.05.02 |
| Tape | Stanley | 4672 | - |
| Immersion Tank | Glass Tank | - | - |

2.9.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack (Class 1) and 406 MHz Fastfind Flus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack (Class 2).

2.9.5 Test Conditions

The previous failure of the PLB's during Temporary Immersion and Thermal Shock testing was found to be due to a faulty seal gasket. As the Drop test had not caused the test failure a repeat was not carried out prior to this test.

Both units were strapped to a weighted fixture. The test samples were placed in a climatic chamber at a temperature of +65°C for 1 hour. The test samples were then submerged in water at a temperature of +20°C, at a depth of 10 cm, measured from the highest point of the PLB's. The units were submerged for 1 hour and them removed from the water tank.

2.9.6 Results of Test

The Self-Test was satisfactorily completed on both Class 1 and Class 2 PLB.

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2.10 TEMPORARY IMMERSION (Repeat)

2.10.1 Specification Reference

BS EN 60945 Clause 8.9.3

2.10.2 Date of Test

15th October 2001

2.10.3 Test Equipment Used

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|----------------|-----------|--------|----------------------|
| Immersion Tank | 940 Litre | - | - |
| Thermocouple | T-Type | 4595 | 01.11.01 |
| Thermometer | Digitron | 4057 | 22.02.02 |
| Hygrometer | Rotronic | 2129 | 16.05.02 |
| Barometer | Druck | 1091 | 10.04.02 |
| Tape | Stanley | 4672 | - |
| Timer | RS | 3913 | 07.05.02 |

2.10.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack (Class 1) and 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack (Class 2).

2.10.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

Both test samples were strapped to a weighted fixture and completely immersed in water for 5 minutes so that:

- 1) The highest point of the PLB was 1 m below the surface of the water.
- 2) The water temperature did not differ from that of the equipment by more than 5 K.

2.10.6 Results of Test

There was no evidence of unwanted water ingress to either unit during the post test inspection. Both test samples successfully performed the Self-Test.

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2.11 ALTITUDE

2.11.1 Specification Reference

MIL-STD-810F Method 500.4

2.11.2 Date of Test

16th October 2001

2.11.3 <u>Test Equipment Used</u>

| Instrument | Model | Inv No | Calibration Due Date |
|-------------|-----------|--------|----------------------|
| Chamber | Ministrat | 1086 | 13.02.02 |
| Data Logger | Anville | 2569 | 13.02.02 |

2.11.4 Equipment Under Test

406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -40°C Battery Pack (Class 1) and 406 MHz Fastfind Plus PLB with -20°C Battery Pack (Class 2).

2.11.5 <u>Test Conditions</u>

Both test samples were placed in the chamber at ambient temperature. No fixture was supplied.

- 1) Air pressure in chamber set to correspond to an altitude of 4572 m.
- 2) Air pressure maintained for 1 h.
- 3) Chamber returned to standard ambient conditions at 10 m/s.

2.11.6 Results of Test

The pressure monitored during this test are shown in Appendix 6.

No damage was visible following the test. The Self-Test was successfully performed on both PLB's.

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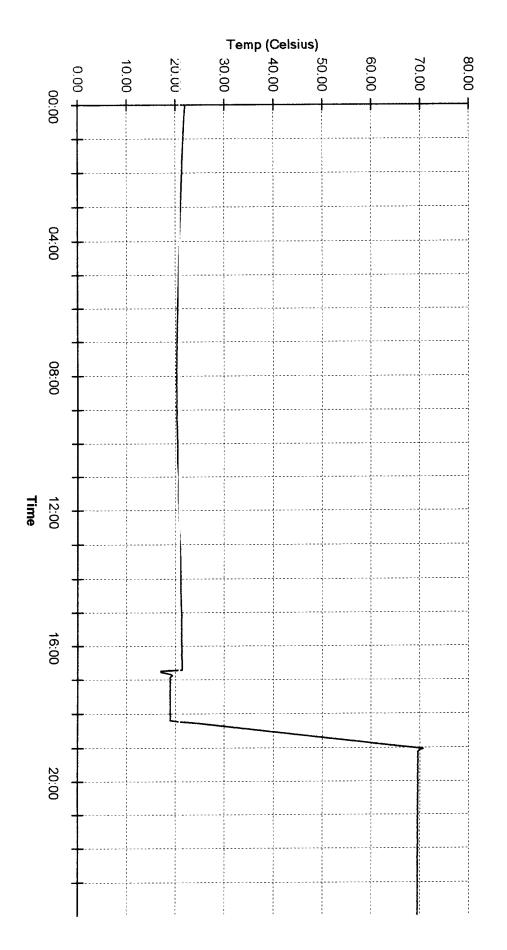


APPENDIX 1

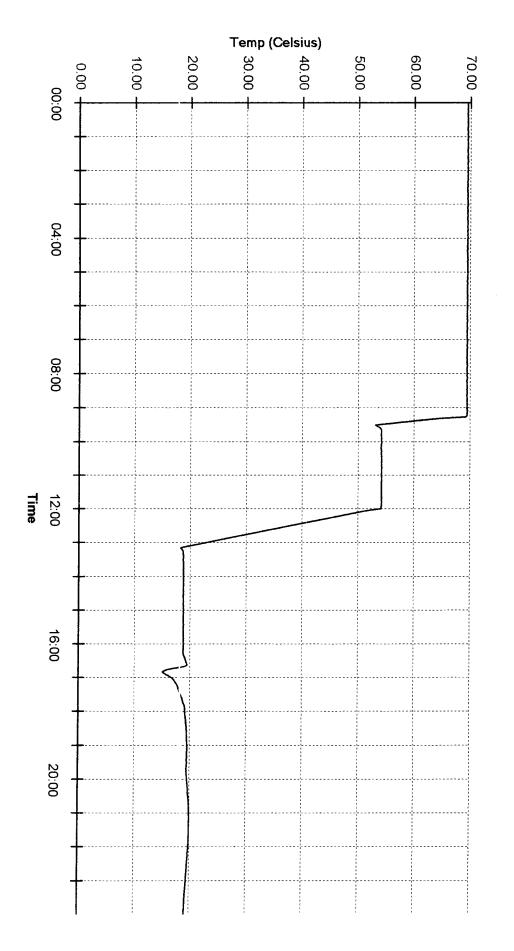
Temperatures monitored during Dry Heat Test

Pages 1-2 Chamber temperature recording

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REL A



RELA

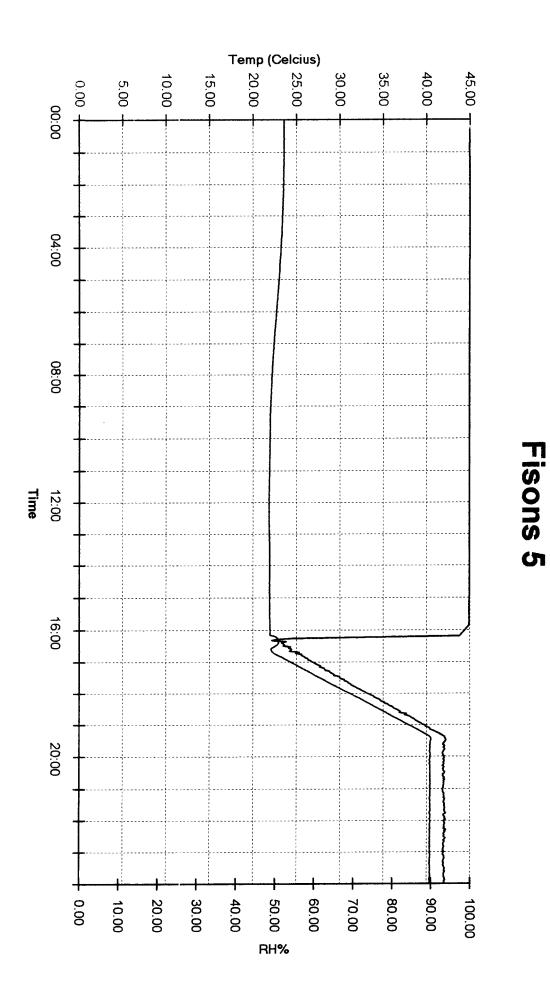


APPENDIX 2

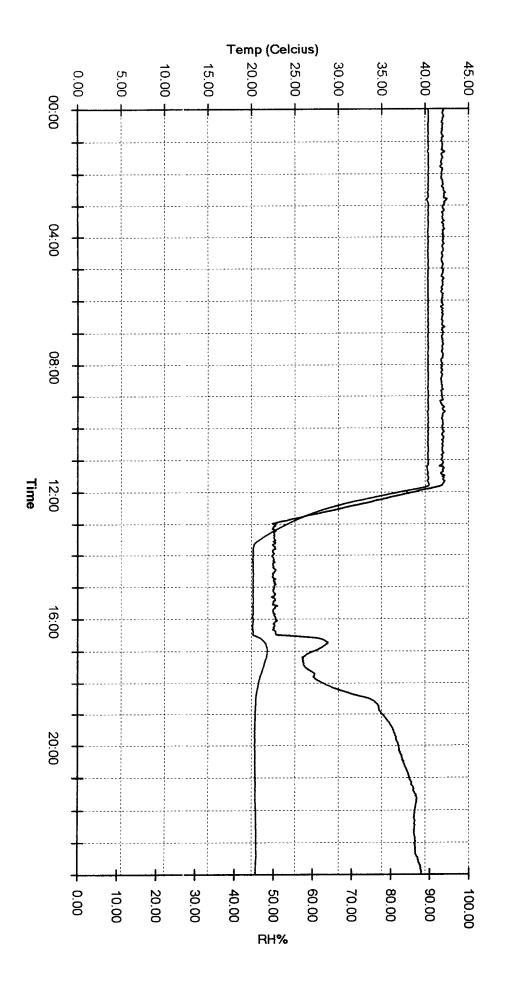
Temperature and Humidity monitored during Damp Heat Test

Pages 1-3 Chamber temperature and humidity recording

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07/06/01



Fisons 5

08/06/01

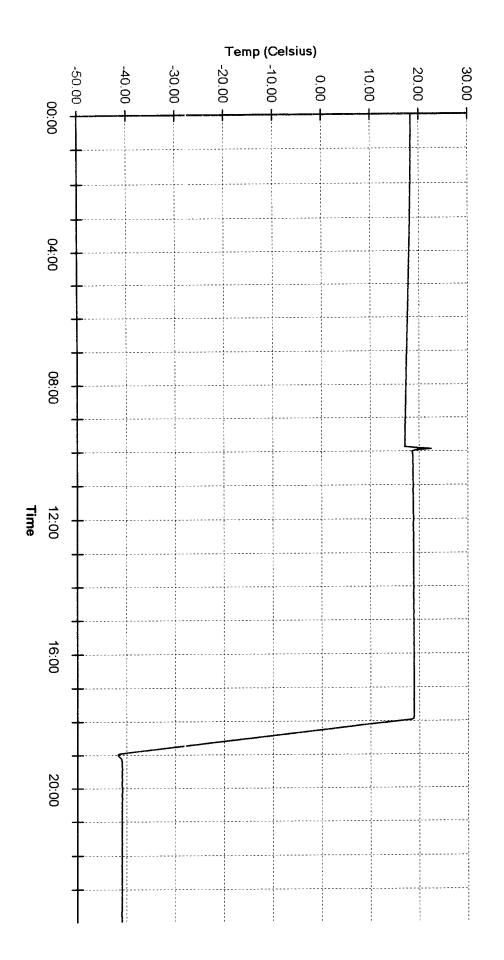


APPENDIX 3

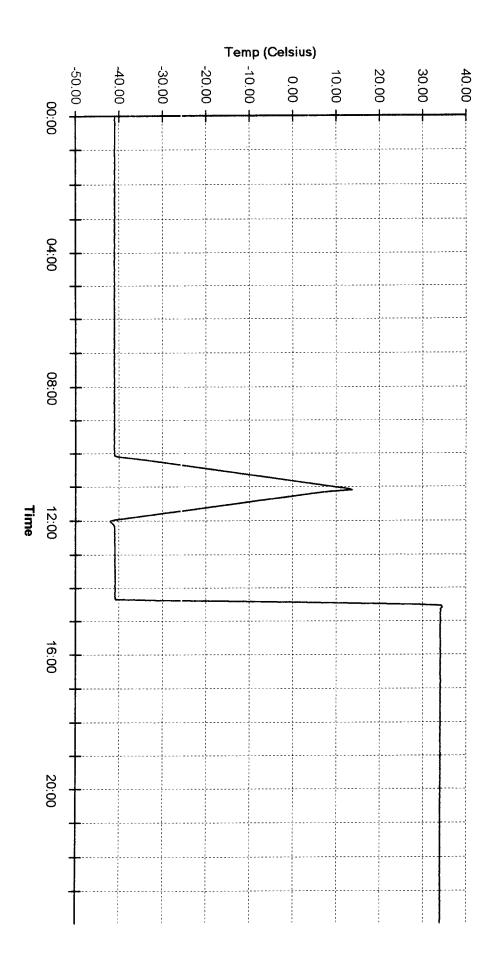
Temperatures monitored during Low Temperature Test

Pages 1-2 Chamber temperature recording

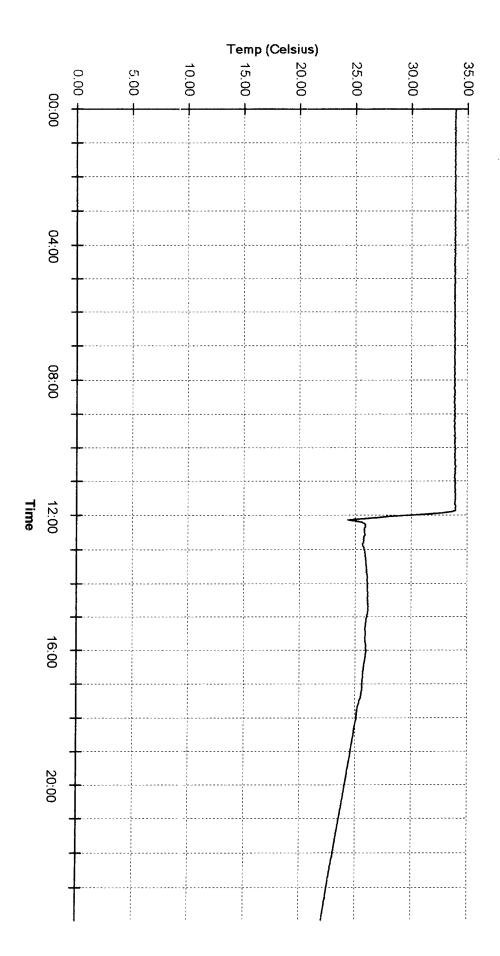
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REL A



EL A



EL A



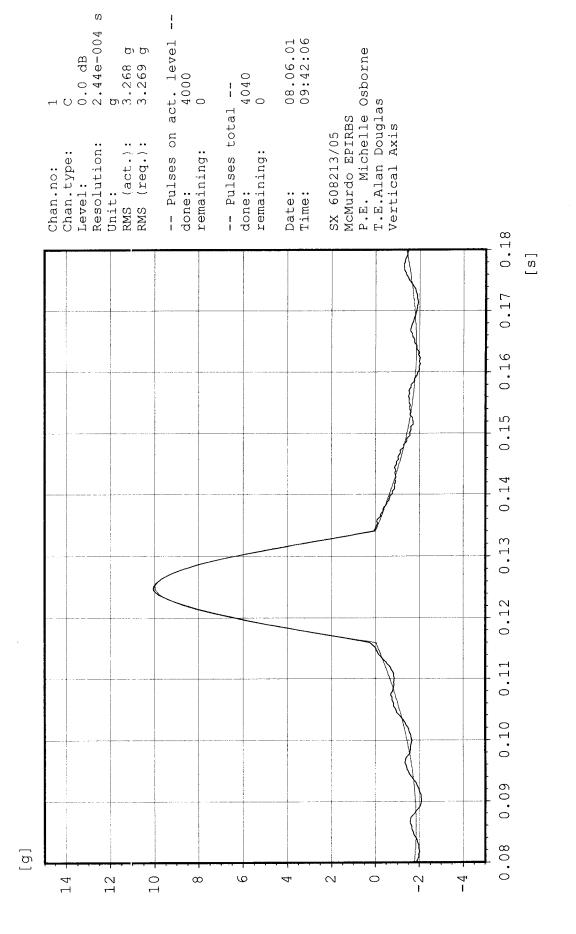
APPENDIX 4

Typical vibration input plot

(comprising 1 page)

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APPENDIX 5

Ruggedness input plot

(comprising 1 page)

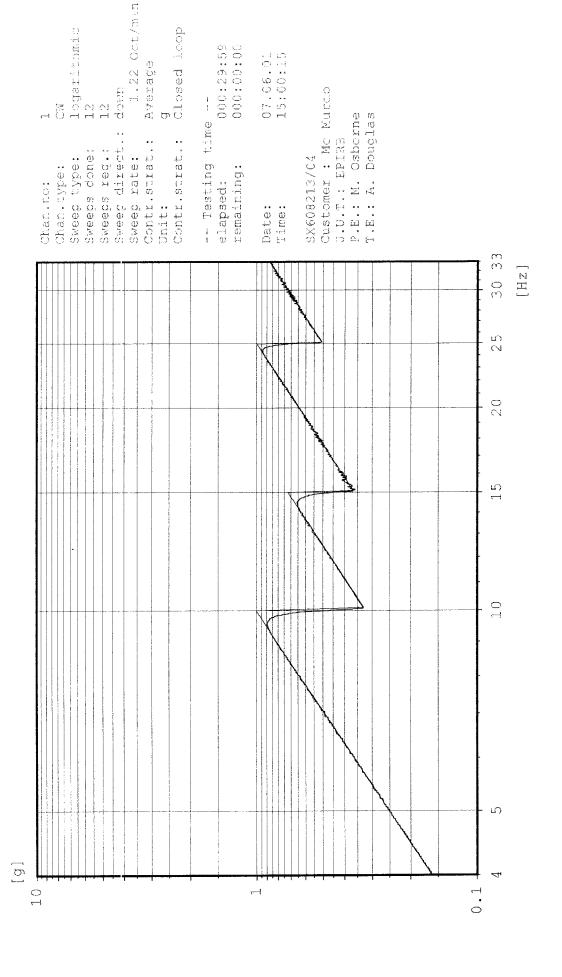
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Control

Vertical Axis

Sine Run 1



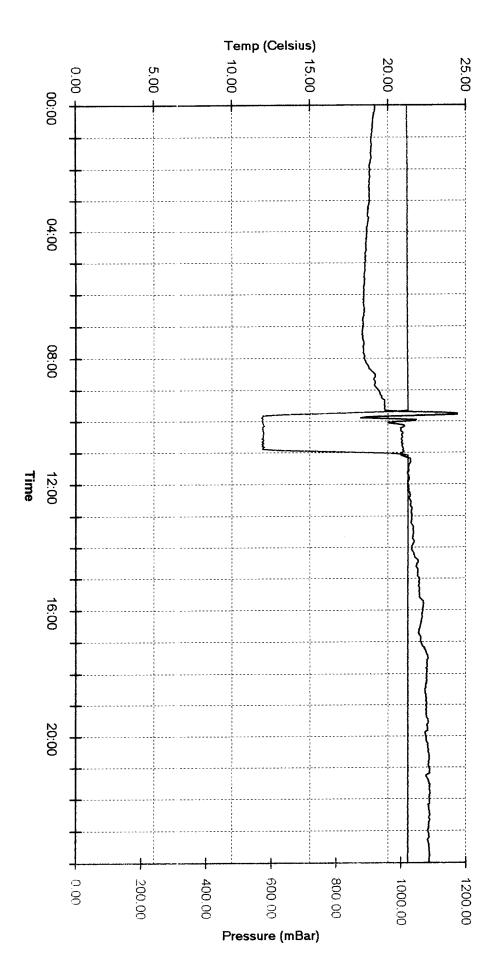




APPENDIX 6

Pressure and temperature monitored during Altitude Test (comprising 1 page)

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APPENDIX 7

Incident Reports

(comprising 14 pages)

Incident Report SX608213/01-Malfunction during Low Temperature Test Incident Report SX608213/02-Damage and Malfunction after Drop Test Incident Report SX608213/03-Malfunction during Temporary Immersion Test

Report No SX608213 Page 29 of 29



TÜV Product Service Ltd Segensworth Road Fareham Hampshire United Kingdom PO15 5RH

Tel: +44 (0)1329 443322 Fax: +44 (0)1329 443421

INCIDENT REPORT

Job Title:

McMurdo Ltd

Report Serial No:

SX608213/01

Date:

13 June 2001

Equipment:

Personal Locator Beacon

Serial No

Not serialised

Test Spec:

ETS 300 066

CL No:

6.2.4

Description of Incident

The temperature was of the chamber was stabilised at -40°C. After a soak period of 14 hours the unit was switched on. The unit would operate for only a few seconds and then cease to operate. The unit would not operate continuously.

Operating Conditions: Chamber temperature being maintained at -40°C.

Probable Cause:

Unknown

Originator:

R.A.Blagg

Person Notified: Richard Read

(McMurdo)

By Test Engineer: R.A.Blagg

Date: 11 June 2001

Local Corrective Action: None

Inspected:

R.ABlagg

Authorised:

Not applicable

Actioned:

Not applicable

Date: Not applicable

Testing to Continue: No. Test sample was

returned to customer

for investigat on.

Authorised: Richard Read

(McMurdo)

Date: 11 June 2001

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Note to Customer:

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McMurdo Investigation report

The unit was returned to McMurdo and soaked at -40°C for 1 hour. When switched on, the unit powered down after 5 seconds.

The unit was stripped down and visually inspected. No obvious defects were observed. The battery voltage is switched to the main sub-circuits via a series pass power transistor. Monitor wires were attached to the base and collector of this transistor and the unit was resoaked at -40°C. At switch on, normal battery rail was available at the collector with the base drawing around 0.5 mA Within a second, the base current started to rise until it reached a point where the base-emitter voltage was not sufficient to keep the transistor in saturation. (This is indicative of the h_{FE} of the transistor falling after initial switch on). The transistor was replaced and the test repeated. The circuit operated correctly.

Four other units have been tested at -40°C and all operated correctly so this phenomenon is not perceived as a design issue.

It can only be concluded that the original component was damaged in some subtle way. No further investigation is intended to determine the exact failure mechanism.

Richard Read (Senior Engineer)

McMurdo Ltd.



TÜV Product Service Ltd Segensworth Road Fareham Hampshire United Kingdom PO15 5RH

Tel: +44 (0)1329 443322 Fax: +44 (0)1329 443421

INCIDENT REPORT

Job Title:

McMurdo Ltd

Report Serial No:

SX608213/02

Date:

13 June 2001

Equipment:

Personal Locator Beacon

Serial No:

Not serialised

Test Spec:

EN60945

CL No:

8.6.1

Description of Incident

The Self Test was performed on both Class 1 and Class 2 Personal Locator Beacons on completion of the Drop Test . Neither unit passed this test. On inspection the battery packs for both units also appeared to have been damaged by the drop test. The seal on each battery pack was broken.

Operating Conditions: A series of six drops, one on each face of the unit under test.

Probable Cause:

Not known

Originator:

M.Osborne

Person Notified: Richard Read

By Project Engineer: M. Osborne

Date: 13 June 2001

(McMurdo)

Inspected: M.Osborne

Authorised: Not applicable

Local Corrective Action: None

Actioned: Not applicable

Date: Not applicable

Testing to Continue: No. Test samples were

Authorised: Richard Read

(McMurdo)

Date: 13 June 2001

returned to customer

for investigation.

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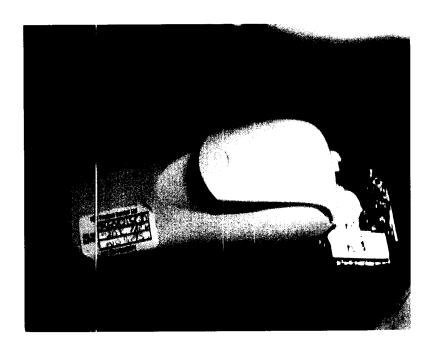
INVESTIGATION REPORT

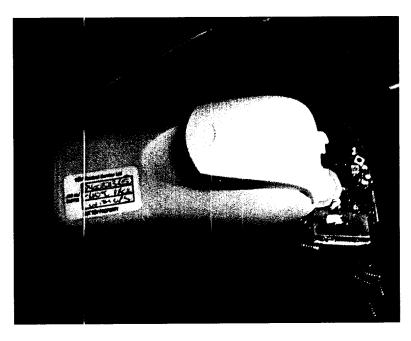
1) SELF-TEST FAILURE:

The units were confirmed to be defective by McMurdo engineers at TUV and brought back to McMurdo for investigation.

A check on the radiated emissions during self-test showed that both the 406MHz and the 121MHz transmission were correctly made.

Both failed units were stripped down for visual inspection, (photos below).

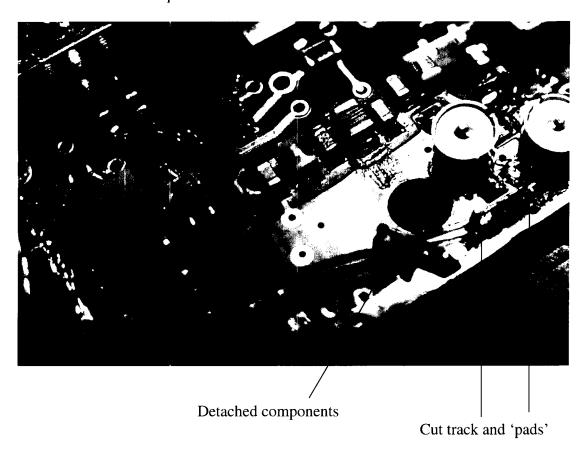




These units are pre-production units. Electrically they function exactly as the production standard. There is one wire link salvage to a resistor and a cut track salvage.

On both units, it was found that the cut track 'salvage scheme' had mechanically failed, with components becoming detached.

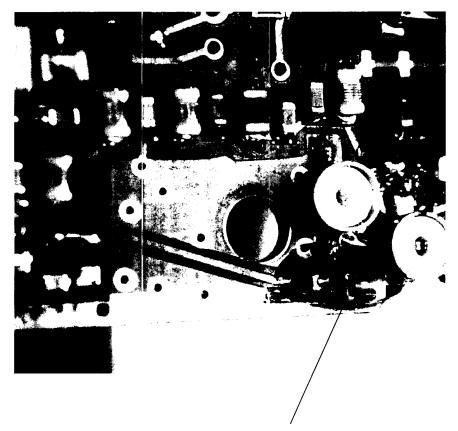
This can be seen in the photo below.



The affected components are part of the RF detector stage. The rectified output provides an indication of correct transmitted power to the microcontroller. Hence the units fail self-test. No other faults were found with either unit.

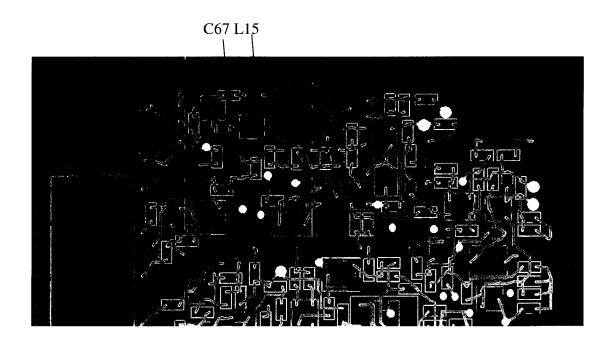
As can be seen from the above photo, the components had been fitted on a cut thin track. This obviously did not provide enough solder area to mechanically support the components when drop tested. As can be seen from the photograph, other components, with correct size solder pads, are all firmly in position.

The units were re-built with the components secured with a small fillet of analdite, as shown in the photo below.



Components araldited in place

The production issue artwork has these components fitted to 0805/0603 component pads, so this problem will not occur in production units. A detail from the production release PCB artwork is shown below, illustrating the placement of the affected components.



2) BATTERY PACKS:

Both battery packs showed signs of the RTV seal splitting where the battery case screw is fitted. This obviously due to the force on the seal when the units were dropped face down.

The battery pack sealing method is a pre-production solution. The production units will be ultrasonically welded packs. We do not currently have the facility to do this. Our proposed solution to enable test to proceed is to have more packs built up and ultrasonically welded by a sub-contractor.

We do not envisage any problems with the production battery packs.

Richard Read (Senior Engineer)

McMurdo Ltd.



Additional Report on Battery Pack Drop Test Failure at TüV.

Test: BS EN 60945 Clause 8.6.1 Drop Test Results: Mechanical failure of Battery Packs

The 406 PLB battery pack plastics were designed to be joined and sealed by ultrasonic welding. At the time of submission to test at TüV, there were difficulties with the supply of ultrasonically welded battery packs from the welding sub-contractor. In order to allow the testing programme to proceed, the decision was taken to use development battery packs which had been assembled with adhesive. It was considered that these would have similar mechanical performance to ultrasonically welded units.

The test units failed drop test, with the battery pack lids separating from the pack bodies. Investigation showed poor bonding between the adhesive and the plastic material (ABS/Polycarbonate blend).

Replacement units were supplied to TüV. These were assembled using the intended ultrasonic welding production process. Battery packs on all further test units supplied to TüV were built using the correct ultrasonic welding process.

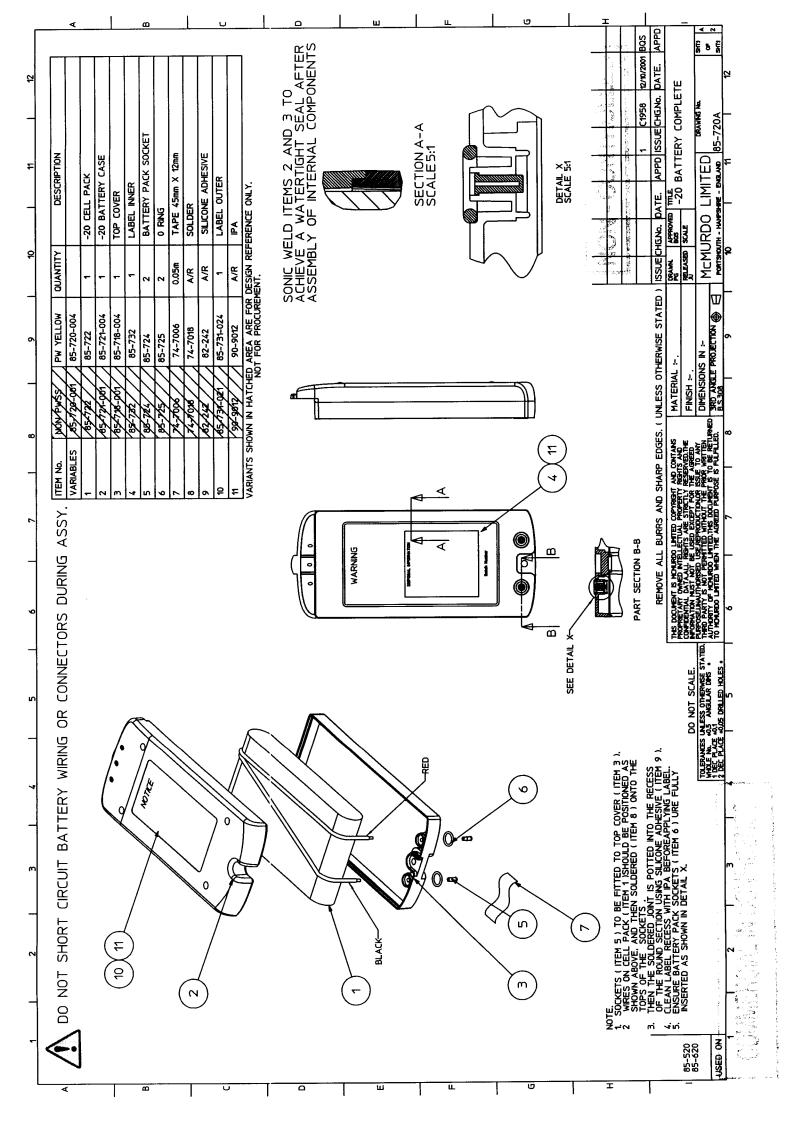
Conclusions:

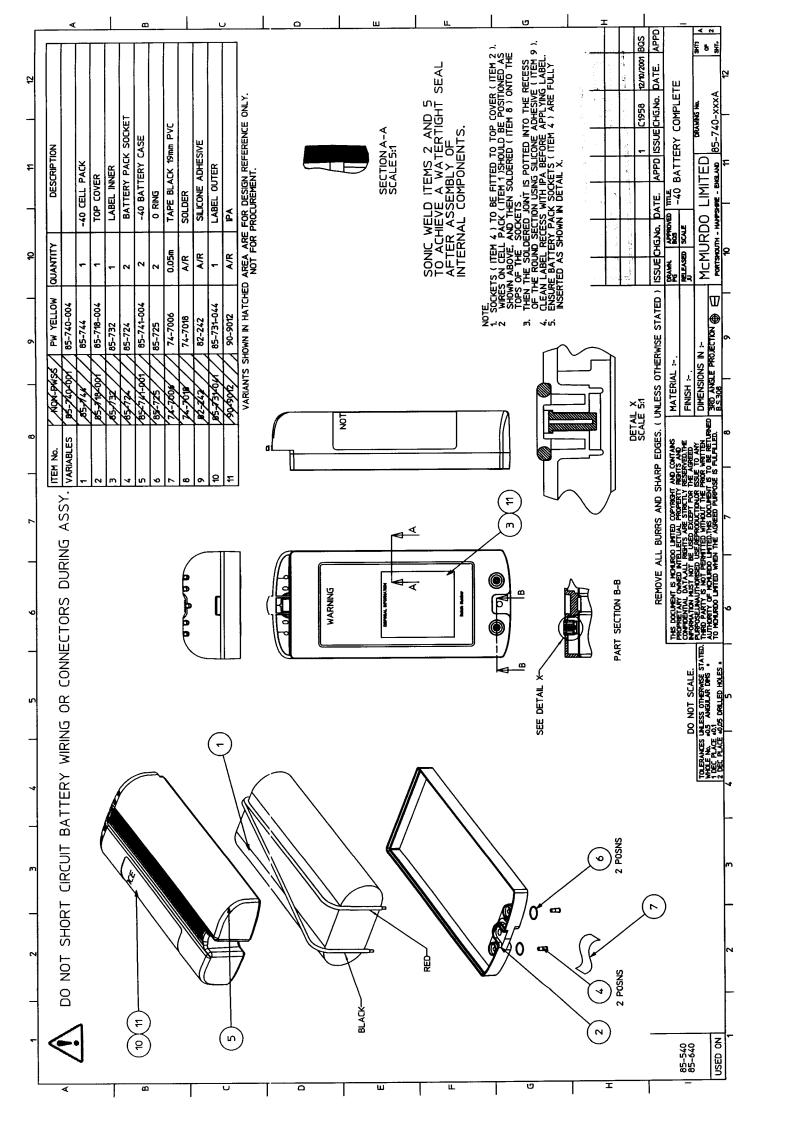
- The battery pack units which failed had not been built using the intended production build process.
- Units submitted for retest were fitted with battery packs built using the production build process.
- All other units submitted for testing were fitted with battery packs built using the production build process.
- The production drawings 85-720 and 85-740 call for the parts to be ultrasonically welded. There are no alternative assembly methods for manufacturing.
- The ultrasonic welding process is now carried out in-house, in the McMurdo manufacturing area, and will be subject to the normal McMurdo process quality monitoring during volume production.

Barry Sims

Development Manager (Beacons)

30-November-2001







TÜV Product Service Ltd Segensworth Road Fareham Hampshire United Kingdom PO15 5RH

Tel: +44 (0)1329 443322 Fax: +44 (0)1329 443421

INCIDENT REPORT

Job Title:

McMurdo Ltd

Report Serial No:

SX608213/03

Date:

19 June 2001

Equipment:

Personal Locator Beacon

Serial No:

Not serialised

Test Spec:

EN60945

CL No:

8.9.3

Description of Incident

Two units were undergoing the Temporary Immersion Test, a Class 1 and Class 2 sample. As the required 5 minute duration of the test was nearing completion the red LED lit up on the Class 1 unit indicating that it was operating. The red LED then went out and the green LED flashed on and cff. The "OFF" button was pressed but the red LED was still dimly lit, the battery pack was removed to cease operation of the urit.

A Self Test on the Class 2 sample was attempted, the red LED did not light to show that the test was in progress. The battery pack was disconnected.

The batteries were reconnected on both samples approximately 15 minutes aft4er the initial incident, both red and green LED's were illuminated on each sample. Each unit was emitting a high pitch tone.

Operating Conditions: Immersed in water 1 metre below the surface.

Probable Cause:

Unknown

Originator:

C Hedley

Person Notified: Richard Read

(McMurdo)

By Project Engineer: M Osborne

Date: 19 June 2001

Local Corrective Action: None

Inspected: M Osborne

Authorised: Not applicable

Actioned: Not applicable

Date: Not applicable

required.

Testing to Continue: No. Further investigation Authorised: Richard Read

(McMurdo)

Date: 20 June 2001

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Report on Water Ingress Incidents at TüV.

Test: ETSI EN 300 066 Clause 6.7 Thermal Shock

BS EN 60945 Clause 8.9.3 Temporary Immersion

Results: Water ingress.

The units under test malfunctioned due to water ingress into the main PLB body during the test process. These units were built from pre-production parts, using the assembly methods intended for production. Similar development builds had been subjected to thermal shock and immersion tests during in-house development testing, with no evidence of water ingress.

Investigations showed that the pre-production sealing gaskets were not of uniform manufacture, and in some cases did not meet the drawing requirements in areas which could compromise the ability to make a watertight seal. It was confirmed by testing that poorly manufactured gaskets could cause the failures exhibited by the units at TüV.

The problem was discussed with the gasket manufacturer, resulting in modifications to the gasket tooling to correct for moulding process variations, and clarification of the dimensional requirements on the production drawing.

Units were subsequently built with new gaskets, and were successfully subjected to in-house thermal shock and 0.5 bar pressure test. Two new PLBs built to this standard were submitted to TüV for retest.

Conclusions:

- The development gaskets were not of uniform manufacture, and did not all meet the drawing requirements.
- The gasket tooling was modified to correct for process variabilities.
- Dimensional requirements were clarified on gasket production drawing 85-711.
- Production drawing 35-501 calls for each complete PLB to undergo a pressure test. Manufacturing are acquiring non-destructive air displacement leak test equipment for this purpose.

Barry Sims

Development Manager (Beacons)

30-November-2001

