

Safety Engineering and Standards Luminaires falling to ground

Incident Description

Since the New Year, 3 luminaires have fallen to ground. This has occurred in 3 different areas to units provided by two different manufacturers, Urbis-Schreder and Philips. In one incident, the luminaire came to rest in lane 2 which was fortunately closed off at the time. To date, there have been no injuries to road users, roadworkers or TOS.

The Urbis-Schreder Ampera failures manifested themselves when the bolts holding the luminaire to the spigot adapter sheared. There was some evidence to show that the unit hung by its electrical cabling before falling. Subsequent ground level inspections indicate the units droop by 15 degrees prior to falling.

The Philips Luma failure gave no pre-warning. Subsequent investigation and examination of those units in the field showed signs of thread wear.

The underlying cause of the bolts failing and loosened bolts is under investigation as a matter of priority by SES technical experts as well as the manufacturers'.



Urbis-Schreder Ampera



Philips Luma

Actions

All sections of the network where Urbis-Schreder Ampera and Philips Luma 2 and 3 are fitted are to be subject to a higher level of inspection than normal to identify fallen, hanging or drooping luminaires.

As part of their normal duties, Traffic Officers are asked to be vigilant for drooping lanterns and report them to the maintenance provider immediately.

As part of regular safety inspections, inspectors are asked to be vigilant for drooping or defective lanterns.

Any compromised luminaires are to be removed within 24 hours. Any fallen luminaire incidents need to be recorded on Airsweb as per IAN 128.

Where compromised luminaires cannot be removed within the stated time period, then any lane below or close to the luminaire is to be closed off until the luminaire can be retrieved.

Removed items are to be marked as:-

- Unserviceable. Not to be installed on SRN.
- Removal date.
- Removed from what 'location'.

Where there is more than one compromised unit in a location, consideration must be given to remove further units in that location.

Removed items are the property of Highways England and may hold information of importance to the investigation. They are not to be handed to the manufacturers without the express permission of SES's senior lighting engineer.

Further Information: For more information about this incident please contact Simon Langley, Senior Lighting Engineer on 0300 470 4194 or email simon.langley@highwaysengland.co.uk