

# Standards Alert

Part of the Energy Queensland Group

<b>Subject: Restricted use of non-conductive 'Alvania' grease (EE 0343764)</b>		Control Ref No: StdsA553
		Date Issued: 10/01/2020
		Supersedes: N/A
For Policy/Procedure/Manual:	<b>Ergon Underground Construction Manual</b>	Expiry Date: 01/07/2020
Originating Dept: <b>Asset Standards - Line Standards</b>		
Target Audience: <b>Northern /Southern - Work Group Leaders, Field Crews, Underground Construction Contractors.</b>		

## 1. Objective

This Standards Alert is to advise users of 'Alvania' Grease (EE 0343764) that the properties of the product have changed and restrict the use of the product.

## 2. Introduction

'Alvania' grease has been used extensively in the underground distribution network for many years. It has been used to coat lug to lug, lug to bushing, and lug to busbar connections. Until late 2019 the 'Alvania' grease was supplied to Ergon by RMS Products however, due to commercial reasons, RMS discontinued supply. A new supplier, Thew and McCann (TMac), was adopted for the product in late 2019. It was discovered, in early 2020, that the TMac product differed from the RMS product: the earlier RMS product was electrically conductive whereas the TMac product is non-conductive.

## 3. Conductive Vs Non-Conductive

Conductive grease can be used in greasing the palms of lugs in lug-to-lug connections and other similar connections where the grease assists the electrical conductivity of the connection. Non-conductive grease cannot be used for lug-to-lug and similar connections as it reduces conductivity. Using non-conductive grease in the connection can cause 'hot' joints and ultimately fail.

<b>WARNING</b>	<b>Using Non-Conductive Grease in Electrical Connections Can Cause Joint Failure</b>
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## 4. Identifying the grease

The grease is supplied from Ergon stores under stock code 0343764. The product is in a 225g tube. The conductive RMS product is in a blue tube with the RMS logo on the tube. The non-conductive grease is in a white tube with a TMAC logo and labelled as "Connector Protective Grease CPG1". It is noted on the TMAC white tube that the grease is non-conductive.

## 5. Action

Do not use the non-conductive TMAC grease from the white tube on lug palms or similar electrical connections.

The grease can be used on bolts and nuts to assist installation and on the outside of electrical connections where appropriate however it is preferred that the TMAC product is discarded.

## 6. Resolution

Stores will be introducing a new 225g tube product from PLP labelled with the PLP logo and the product description 'Alvania ALV 300'. The PLP product is conductive and can be used as the previous RMS product.

## 7. Update to Manuals

Construction manuals are not affected by this Alert.

## 8. Further Information

For further information, please contact:

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