

## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE – UPRIGHT FREEZER

A near miss incident was reported at an ACS client worksite where the front and left side panels on an upright freezer condenser unit fell to the floor surface, narrowly missing contact with a staff member. The worker was checking the freezer temperature at the time of the incident occurrence, but in doing so, did not physically come into contact with the panels.

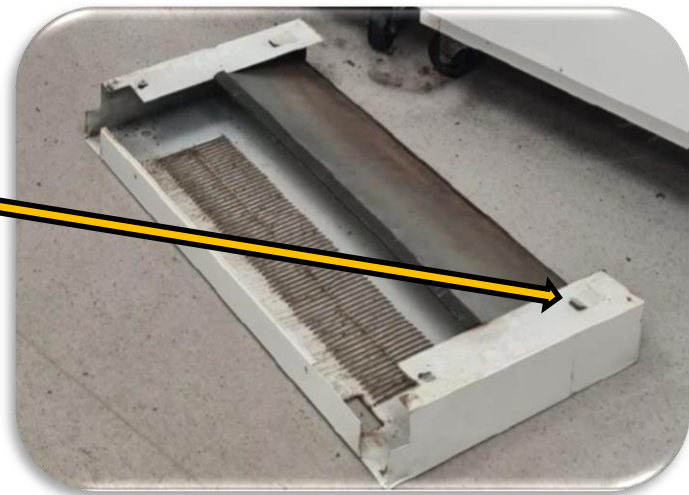


(Fig. 1)

The root cause analysis performed revealed that the side panels were connected together with the front grille tabs inserted into grooves on the side panels (see Fig.2 & 3 below). As the securing mechanism integrity diminished over time the contacts had become sloppy and prone to disengaging, falling to the floor as was the case here.



(Fig. 2)



(Fig. 3)

Although there were small holes in the panels, no screws were inserted to support the panels tightly if the fastenings became disengaged. From our standpoint screws were part of the original freezer procurement, but have been removed and not replaced as time evolved.

### Root Causes:

- 7 INADEQUATE TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT
- a) Equipment breakdown (wear and tear)
- c) Equipment design problem

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Contractor to evaluate the integrity of the condensing unit panels when performing a preventative maintenance inspection. Check that the panel connections are not sloppy and fit tightly. Where screws are found to be missing in the unit panel configuration, secure them with phillips head screws.
- 2) Contact ACS Customer Account Manager, inform them if the panels need further safeguarding e.g. replacement or modification; who in turn will arrange with the respective ACS client for approval to proceed with the work.

### **Lessons Learnt:**

- When performing preventative maintenance on the freezer condensing unit, check that the panels are in alignment, and the tabs and grooves are firmly engaged. Panel screws are all intact.
- A risk assessment must be carried out to identify the hazards relating to the equipment, the potential for injury, its severity and the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard identified. Assess what is the worst thing that can happen to you, record solution on the ACS Site Specific SWMS.

**“Replace the unit panel(s) right the first time”**