

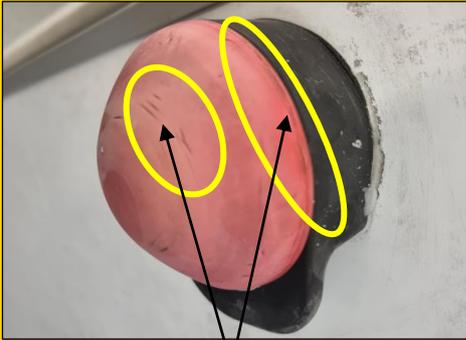
Failure of Emergency Door Release Button in Walk-In Freezers

There have recently been two separate incidents within the business whereby an individual has been working inside a walk-in freezer with the door shut and when attempting to exit, the emergency door release button has failed, and the individual has been unable to open the freezer door from the inside. Fortunately, in both incidents, the individual was able to alert a colleague and the door was opened from the outside.

Following investigations, it was established that both emergency release buttons were a 'dome' style and there was a build-up of ice within the casing of the button, potentially due to high condensation and a possible fracture of the seal cover of the button.

Due to the ice building up on the inside of the casing, this went unnoticed until unfortunately the release button failed.

We are therefore requesting all unit managers inspect the emergency button for signs of damage (Fig 1) and that the dome has not become solid due to internal ice build-up (Fig 2).



(Fig 1) Slight signs of damage, potentially allowing condensation to enter and freeze

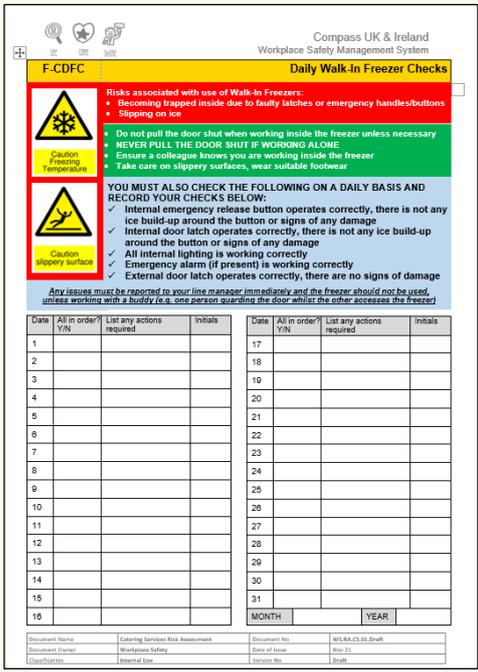


(Fig 2) No obvious signs of damage however button was not able to be depressed

Unit managers must also ensure:

- Access is restricted to authorised, trained individuals only
- All individuals know how to operate the emergency release button
- There is a documented rescue plan in place and individuals have been made aware of the procedure to follow
- Where possible, individuals do not enter walk-in freezers if working alone and **MUST NEVER CLOSE THE DOOR WHEN WORKING INSIDE THE FREEZER**
- Daily safety checks of the walk-in freezer are carried out and recorded. To assist unit managers with this, record form F-CDFC has been created (Fig 3). This must be printed and displayed on the outer door of the freezer and daily checks recorded.

If you have any questions, please contact your HSE Manager for further guidance



(Fig 3)