

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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INFORMATION BULLETIN 2004-06 (SHL, MH, FBH)

**TO: City and County Building Officials
Manufactured Home Manufacturers
Factory-built Housing Manufacturers
Interested Parties (SHL, MH, FBH)
Division Staff**

SUBJECT: ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT BREAKER (AFCI) RECALL

This Information Bulletin provides important information concerning the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) recall, in voluntary cooperation with Schneider Electric, of approximately 700,000 Square D QO® and Homeline® AFCI circuit breakers manufactured by the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. A copy of the November 3, 2004, CPSC notice is attached which contains specific information regarding the affected devices. Please review the notice carefully as it provides, among other information, contact information and instructions for the return of the devices.

The AFCI device is an electrical circuit protection device (circuit breaker) that can detect an electrical arc and shut off the power to the circuit before the arcing may lead to a fire. The recalled arc-fault interrupter circuit breakers are designed for use in 15- and 20-amp branch circuits; have a blue test button; and were manufactured between March 2004 and September 2004.

CPSC reports that tests performed on the device indicate that the arc detection capability in these breakers may become inoperable due to a defective internal component in the electronic detection circuit resulting in the circuit breaker not properly detecting a high resistance low current arcing fault. This means that the circuit breakers will continue to provide the same level of protection offered by a standard circuit breaker, but may not provide the additional arc-fault protection required by the 2001 California Electrical Code, Section 210-12.

Questions concerning the recalled AFCI circuit breakers should be directed to Schneider Electric, toll-free, at (877) 202-9046 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday or by logging on to its website at www.us.squared.com/recallafci . Questions regarding this Information Bulletin may be directed to HCD's State Housing Law Program staff at (916) 445-9471.

Kim Strange
Acting Deputy Director

Attachment