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July 8, 2011



Product Safety Alert

### **The Electrical Safety Authority Warns Consumers about Counterfeit "Square D" Circuit Breakers**

The Electrical Safety Authority is notifying consumers about counterfeit "Square D" brand circuit breakers that have not been tested to any Canadian safety standard. The recalled circuit breakers labelled "Square D" or "SQD" have been determined to be counterfeit and can fail to trip when they are overloaded, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

**Units:** About 43,600

**Distributor:** Miami Breaker Inc. (MBI), of Miami, Fla.

ESA attempted to contact the Distributor to determine if the counterfeit product was sold into Canada but the distributor would not provide the requested information.

A product recall is being performed in the USA by the distributor who was found to be selling counterfeit products, not by Schneider Electric, the owner of the Square D brand.

It is unlikely that any counterfeit products were directly imported into Canada from this source, however mail order or internet sales may have occurred. QO products purchased through authorized Canadian Schneider Electric distributors are not suspected.

**Importer:** General Breakers and Panels Inc., of Miami, Fla.

**Manufactured in:** Unknown

**Description:** The counterfeit circuit breakers are marked as Square D in the QO series. The models are QO115 (about 7,800 units), QO120 (about 26,300 units), QO130 (about 3,200 units), QO215 (about 350 units), QO220 (about 720 units), QO230 (about 1,780 units), QO240 (about 1,130 units), QO250 (about 1,150 units) and QO260 (about 1,150 units). Genuine Square D QO breakers have the following: (1) the amp rating written on the handle in white paint on the front of the breaker, (2) the Square D insignia moulded onto the breaker side; (3) a yellow chromate clip with half of the top of the clip visible. If your breaker does not match this description, it could be counterfeit.

In addition, some of the product labels, including the counterfeit 30 A single pole (QO130), contain a misspelled word (see photo below).

July 8, 2011

Note that genuine QO circuit breakers manufactured prior to 2000 had the amperage moulded into the handle. Genuine product purchased recently should only have the white paint amperage marking.

Further information on identifying counterfeit QO circuit breakers can be found on [Schneider Electric's](#) web site. A Schneider Electric Press Release explaining the legal proceedings that led to this Miami Breaker Inc. counterfeit product recall can also be read [here](#).

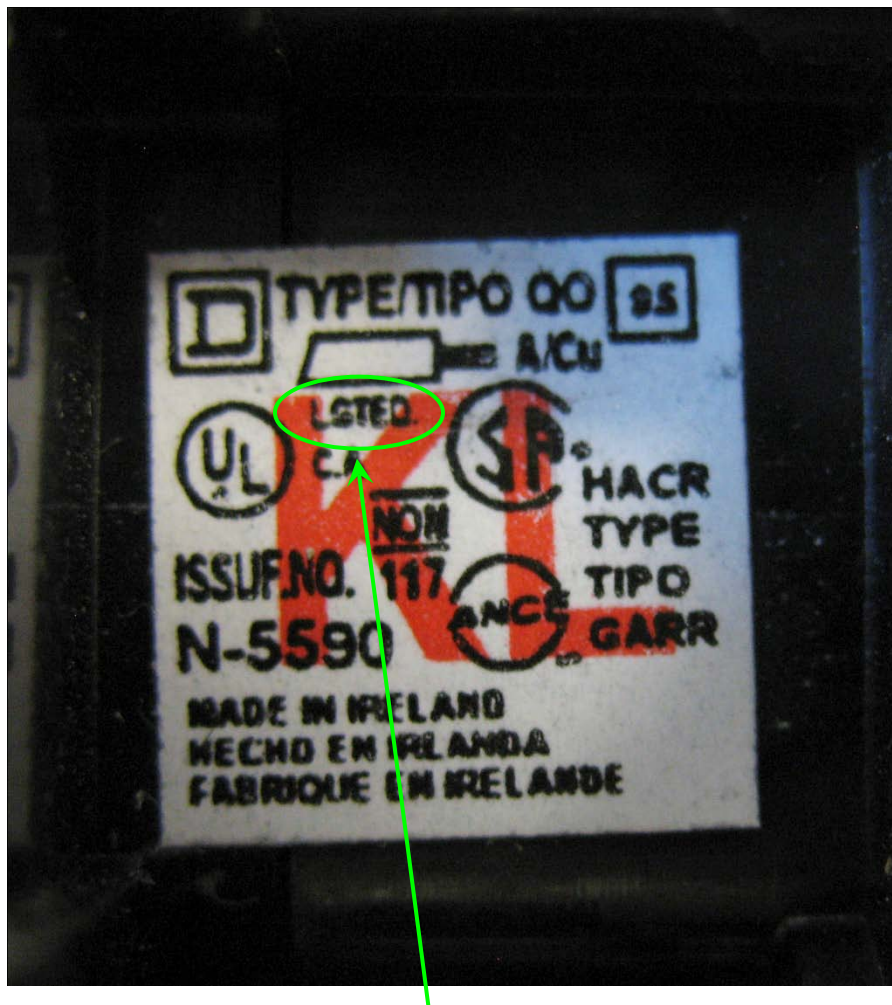
The counterfeit breakers are marked with counterfeit CSA Certification labels.

The CPSC Recall Notice may be viewed via the following link;

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml10/10749.html>



July 8, 2011



Some of the product labels, including the one on the counterfeit 30 A single pole breaker, misspell the word LISTED with a missing letter "I".