

# BBC SAFETY ALERT

## 'Duraplug' 3 pin plug failure



Date: **25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
Category: Electrical safety

### Summary

Plug Part No. PF133 BLK suffered serious structural failure on attempt to withdraw from Seaward Apollo tester socket. Inner moulding carrying pins, fuse, cable clamp etc., came to pieces leaving conductive parts exposed which, had the socket been powered, would have exposed people to the risk of contact with mains voltages.

A second plug suffered similar catastrophic failure during inspection, when subjected to moderate stress between pins and body.



### Where Found?

In various and numerous locations BUT both plugs that failed were of a similar age and had been used for the same purpose; on adaptor leads to enable a portable lighting dimmer pack to be used on location.

Other plugs of the same type in the batch of cables being inspected and tested were not found to be defective in this way.

### What to do?

Plugs can be visually checked for this defect by holding the pins and then pulling away on the top to simulate withdrawal from a stiff socket. On the defective plugs, pins easily pull through the base which separates along the lines of internal mouldings etc.

**When carrying out electrical safety testing ensure that this visual check is carried out beforehand.**

### Contacts

BBC Safety, Security & Resilience

(with thanks to: Nick Langely, Operations Engineer)