



DEFECTIVE DEFIBRILLATOR

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

During a routine check of a Defibrillator unit it was found that the main battery pack and the small 9v battery, which powers the indicator lights, were dead.

The unit's green active status light was NOT flashing, instead indicating a red light showing the unit was not operational.

Although monthly checks were carried out, during the time between the checks the unit was not working and, if required in a life saving emergency situation, the unit would have failed.

KEY FINDINGS

- The main battery pack had a limited life span, which was not checked or recorded when it was installed.
- The small 9v battery was a zinc type and the wrong type for the unit. This should have been a lithium battery.
- Personnel who are trained how to use the defibrillator were not trained to correctly check the unit using the defib self diagnostic feature.
- No records were being kept for checking the unit.
- Spare replacement batteries were not available.



Unit Type


**Defibtech DDU-100
Semi-Automatic
External
Defibrillator**


HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Ensure personnel are properly trained to check defibrillators correctly, information for this is found in the instruction manual.
- Records of inspections of each unit should be maintained.
- Defibrillators should be included in a weekly inspection regime.
- Correct batteries must be used including replacement spare batteries when required.

Look after yourself and each other 
Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Tools and Equipment 
Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems 
Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

Incident/Hazard alerts 
Report all incidents/hazards immediately.