GSM Printer & Label Systems Ltd

Press release

SCALDING SAFEGUARD SYSTEM

A new system designed to cut the number of scalding accidents in hospitals and other care institutions is being launched by bar coding specialist GSM Printer and Label Systems.

Five people died and 48 were seriously injured in scalding accidents in health and social work premises in 2000/01.*

The new stand-alone system allows administrators to schedule the maintenance of every thermostatic mixing valve within the facility, record the results of maintenance tests and create a complete audit trail of every valve.

General manager Martin Cameron said: “A single hospital may have as many as 3,000 thermostatic mixing valves or more, all of which have to be tested and have the results recorded on a regular basis. “ValveCheck reduces the current high risk of litigation due to scald injuries from faulty and poorly-maintained valves by using a hand-held terminal to schedule the service and record the service history of each valve.”

Hot and cold water temperatures are closely monitored by hospitals and similar institutions. Hot water has to be maintained at 60°C to control legionella bacteria, which can cause Legionnaire’s Disease, but, with such a high temperature, defective valves could result in patients being scalded. Under the ValveCheck system, each thermostatic mixing valve is given a unique bar code number, and a record of its location and the due date for maintenance is stored within a central database. Reports can be run on forthcoming, due and overdue maintenance, either by print-out or on screen, and engineers alerted to the task.

The system allows the administrator to create a checklist of the maintenance routine so that the operative can be prompted with the tests that need to be carried out, such as pre-mix temperature, time to shut-off and post-mix temperature. The host system allows checklists to be created to manufacturers maintenance guidelines and pass or fail results can be assigned to each question, either as results within a specific range or as yes/no answers. All the information can then be downloaded to the portable data collection terminal by the operative, negating the need for paper records. The terminal also contains the engineers work schedule for the day. Throughout the process a detailed history is being created on the terminal, giving a complete audit trail of every valve entered on the system. When the day’s work has been completed, the information is uploaded on to the host computer. A comprehensive set of reports allows data to be extracted from the system.

Martin Cameron added: “There are around 750 hospitals in the UK and legislation says that every thermostatic mixing valve in all hospitals – every bath tap, bidet, shower and sink - has to be checked every six months to ensure that the output temperature is not more than 44°C. “In a large hospital, this is virtually a full-time job for an engineer. ValveCheck will mean that anyone can carry out the tests, with the engineer carrying out replacement or repair work and re-testing where necessary.”

The company has partnered with hardware specialist Intermec to produce ValveCheck.

Bar Code Printers

Label Software

Labels

Ribbons

Bar Code Scanners

Data Capture Systems

Bespoke Software

“Off the Shelf” Solutions

PLS Healthcare Solutions
Park House, Park Side Drive,
Houghton Regis, Beds,
LU5 5QN
Tel 01582 869000
Fax 01582 866777,
email:
plsenquiries@gsmgroup.co.uk
www.pls-ltd.co.uk/healthcare