SAFETY NOTICE

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IMPLANTABLE CARDIAC DEVICES

Everyone is exposed on a daily basis to electric and magnetic fields, or electromagnetic fields (EMFs). EMFs surround all electrical devices and exist in the home and the workplace as a result of all types of sources including wiring and power lines. The strength of electric and magnetic fields varies with the voltage and current applied to the device and decreases with distance from the device.

If you have an implantable medical electronic device such as a pacemaker or defibrillator, you should be aware that electric and magnetic fields of sufficient strength could interfere with the normal operation of these devices.

Many common types of battery or electric powered tools or equipment that are in good working condition and operated as intended may be used by a person who has a medical electronic device with little or no known risk. This situation may vary according to your particular medical device, but little or no known risk is associated with the use of items such as televisions, office machines, and flashlights. Other electric or battery operated tools or equipment may have special considerations associated with their use such as cordless drills, electric fences, induction cooktops, walkie-talkies, portable radios, cell phones and gasoline powered tools.

In addition, Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor (NEC) uses a traction power system with electric wires known as a catenary system for supplying power to the electric trains. As with all electrical systems, the railroad catenary system emits EMFs. Certain workplace equipment such as electrical substations, frequency converter stations, welding machines, large electric motors, industrial battery chargers, and generators could emit significant EMFs.

You or your physician should consult with the manufacturer of your particular medical electronic device for specific precautions that you should take around different types of battery or electric powered equipment. If you have an implanted cardiac device or you are being considered for or are replacing a medical electronic device, like an implantable pacemaker or defibrillator, you should fully discuss the nature of your work and the tools and equipment in your workplace with your physician to ensure that workplace EMFs do not interfere with the functioning of the device.

You should also notify HR Medical Services at (215) 349-2389 if either: (1) you have such an implanted medical device and you work in the vicinity of electrical equipment, devices, wiring, or power lines that may emit EMFs that may exceed the permissible limits for your medical device, or (2) regardless of the EMFs that may exist in the vicinity of your work area(s), you have such an implanted medical device and your job is safety sensitive (for example, a locomotive engineer or track worker who works as a watchman or a conductor flagman).

If you have any questions about the contents of this Safety Notice, please speak to your local Safety Officer. Medically related questions should be directed to HR Medical Services at (215) 349-2389.

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