



## **HSB warns of increased risk of equipment failure as a result of the cold weather**

*London: 11 January 2010:* HSB Engineering is alerting UK businesses to the increased risk of equipment failure and breakdown as the coldest winter in over a decade continues.

A number of schools and businesses have been affected by failed boilers and HSB is already reporting an increase in queries relating to equipment malfunction associated with cold weather.

To minimise the potential for equipment breakdown, HSB are advising businesses that heating systems should be kept operating at all times – running at low setting during off-peak times to reduce the strain on boilers. As frost damage is a more likely occurrence at this time of year, frost-stats should be checked and outside vents should also be protected or cleared of ice and snow accumulation.

The recent introduction of gas restrictions for some businesses also increases the risk of breakdown and when fuel supply is switched to oil users are encouraged to test fuel cut-outs to ensure that they are operational.

The insurer is also warning businesses of the danger to electrical equipment as severe weather can cause power fluctuation and power interruption as downed wires disrupt the power supply. When electricity is restored the sudden surge of power can destroy modern, high-tech equipment that businesses rely on.

To manage this risk, businesses should ensure that any equipment not being used is turned off and unplugged. If a power cut does occur businesses can reduce the risk of surges by switching off electronic equipment until after the power is fully restored.

Ends

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## HSB Engineering Insurance Limited

### Notes to editors

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Operating across the UK, Ireland, and Europe, HSB Engineering Insurance Limited provides engineering insurance solutions to a wide range of industrial and commercial customers to help protect their assets and profitability.

HSB products include:

- Equipment breakdown
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- Contractors plant, contractors all risks and erection all risks
- Computer insurance
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