

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

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Subject: PARADE BOOT SOLE SEPARATION
Comment:
Group: DMO

PARADE BOOT SOLE SEPARATION

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- Some Army units have submitted Reports on Defective and Unsatisfactory Materiel (RODUMs) reporting that a number of soldiers have had the sole of their parade boot separate from the boot upper.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- The reports highlighting this issue were submitted between 23 April 2012 and 17 May 2012.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- The supplier has been contacted and has commenced investigating technical solutions to resolve the fault.
- DMO is reviewing the contract provisions regarding latent defects.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Patent leather boots from this supplier have been in service since approximately 1999.
- In 2008, the sole separating from the upper was identified as an issue.
- All Defence stocks of patent leather boots were returned to the supplier. They were modified by stitching the upper to the sole at the toe and nailing the heel to strengthen the design. All subsequent deliveries were stitched at the toe and at the heel.
- These most recent reports include boots that have been stitched at the toe and heel and boots that have been stitched and nailed.
- There have been a number of adverse media reports since 2008 on shoe and boot soles separating on parades. The last media interest was in February 2012 relating to the 3-RAR Welcome Parade in Townsville.

- There was a Senate Question on Notice (1684) on this issue in March this year.

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