



RFID protectSM

case studies 2013

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Case Study # 19:

TIG welding - bad news for door entry systems?

Leading defence contractor *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* recently experienced a frustrating issue whereby certain workers reported their 'contactless' ID smart cards had stopped functioning after being in the proximity of TIG welding operations; resulting in denied access to various sectors of a secure facility in England.

A number of workers at *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* had been issued with proximity access smart card technology, or in layman's terms, 'contactless' ID badges designed to facilitate easy access throughout the plant. *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* eventually made a connection between the high-energy electro magnetic pulses emitted by TIG welding equipment used in the manufacture of

submarines. Pulses from the welding equipment, during normal operations, had the effect of 'wiping' data held on smart cards in the vicinity. (This type of smart card is commonly used to store biometric templates and other user data.)

Having taken independent advice from David Hambley MSc, C Eng, MIET (Retired Technical Manager of York EMC Services Donibristle Laboratory), Bedford-Based company *RFID Protect* provided *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* with a polycarbonate EMP (electro magnetic pulse) shielding ID badge holder, designed for its door access passes.

The unit supplied by *RFID Protect* proved a cost effective solution, and bench-testing at *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* has since

demonstrated that this product is 100% effective against even extreme EMP surges from TIG welders.

David Hambley holds the view that the EMP 'reach' of these particular welding devices could have been many metres. As the 'contactless' roll-out gains momentum, there is a view that this detrimental EMP phenomenon will become more of an issue for others in the welding industry.

For more information visit us at:

<http://www.rfidprotect.co.uk/products.html>

Author: *RFID Protect* Press Release | Circa 1 January 2013

1. <http://www.rfidprotect.co.uk/press.html>

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Case Study # 20: ITN Channel 4 News - e-pickpocketing!

When your bank tells you that a new 'contactless' payment card is 100% secure, perhaps you'll keep in mind their track record for 'security'.

And whilst we've been actively assisting in the fight to tackle the 'e-pickpocket' for many years now, it's an issue that only recently reached mainstream awareness – thanks to an *ITN Channel 4 News* item.

In a televised interview with Thomas Cannon, (*ViaForensics*) the security specialist explained:

"...all I did was tap my phone over your wallet and using the wireless reader on the phone I was able to lift out the details from your card, that includes the long card number, the expiry date and your name."

There's probably nothing to worry about in the longer-term. But right now (*and certainly to be on the safe side*) why not avoid potential mayhem and consider a low-cost 'anti-skim' sleeve for that new 'contactless' credit or debit card; such as those that can be purchased from RFID Protect.

Benjamin Cohen, who is *ITN Channel 4 News'* Technology Correspondent sheds more light on the matter:

"...Channel 4 News managed to take data with just one swipe, and then use that data to purchase multiple goods online."

Sources: 1. rfidprotect.co.uk/press.html | 23 March 2012
2. channel4.com/news/ | 23 March 2012



Case Study # 21:

As demonstrated by ITV's Phillip Schofield

Popular daytime television show *This Morning* featured a selection of our products during a recent item on contactless credit card fraud.

During a five-minute feature, presenter Phillip Schofield showcased *RFID Protect's* latest 'Leather Multi-card Holder', which has been designed in collaboration with crime-reduction officers at Victoria Police, Australia and is new to the UK.

Mr Schofield was visibly shocked at the ease by which information can be 'skimmed' from a contactless credit or debit card; during a demonstration given by Thomas Cannon (Director of Research and Development) at American company *ViaForensics*.

The programme was first shown on Thursday 10th May, 2012 on this British-based terrestrial television channel.

A spokesman for RFID Protect said,

"...we're absolutely thrilled that ITV came to us for guidance on the whole issue of 'e-pickpocketing', and what members of the public can do to better protect their contactless bank cards. Working with the team on This Morning has been a great pleasure; it's great to receive so much positive feedback about our work and products."

Source: <http://rfidprotect.wordpress.com/2012/05/10/as-demonstrated-by-itvs-phillip-schofield/>

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