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May 5, 2009

To: Users of Daniel 700 Series Control Valves

IMPORTANT PRODUCT ADVISORY REGARDING ASCO NORMALLY OPEN SOLENOID VALVES USED ON DANIEL 700 SERIES CONTROL VALVES

On November 20, 2008 Daniel sent customers an important safety notice concerning ASCO Solenoid Valves used on Daniel 700 Series valves in bulk fuel loading applications. That safety notice addressed ASCO Red Hat I and ASCO Red Hat II, normally-open solenoid valves ("N.O." solenoids) installed on Daniel 700 Series Control Valves primarily handling ethanol.

In the last few years, we understand ASCO has received approximately 35 reports of small cracks developing in the core tubes of ASCO Red Hat I and ASCO Red Hat II N.O. solenoids used as components of control valves in bulk fuel loading applications. Some of these incidents have resulted in leakage of media to atmosphere creating a potential risk of fire or explosion.

ASCO has determined that the cracks are a fatigue phenomenon occurring as a result of a combination of rapid and extended cycling of the N.O. solenoids in liquids where there is the potential for pressure spikes induced by water hammer. ASCO has advised us that Metallographic analysis performed by independent laboratories confirmed that the cracks are fatigue failures with no indication of any flaw in the formed material.

ASCO is continuing to study this issue to better understand how the combination of factors present in the bulk fuel loading application environment affect this fatigue phenomenon. In the meantime, Daniel recommends that users of N.O. solenoids on Daniel 700 series control valves inspect their applications to verify current operating conditions.

Applications that have elevated cycle rates (e.g., in excess of 20-30 cycles per minute) and elevated operating pressures that have been in service for some period of time have a potential risk of a fatigue crack developing in the core tube. The elevated cycle rates are most commonly seen on 2 or 3-inch control valves.

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In addition to implementing procedures to review current operating conditions, operating pressures and cycle rates, Daniel recommends that you rebuild (including replacement of the core tube) and/or replace any solenoid before an end of life condition occurs in your application that could potentially result in the release of media to the field.

As noted above we are working with ASCO to continue to evaluate this issue and to better understand the application of the solenoids in this environment. We will advise you of any developments as that work progresses.

If you sold or transferred any of the products in question, please forward this product advisory to the transferee immediately so that they may take appropriate action, or advise us immediately of the name and address of the transferee so that we may forward the information to them.

Daniel regrets any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned, Bob Royer (973-966-2315, robert.royer@emerson.com) or Bob Arnone (973-966-2622, robert.arnone@emerson.com) at ASCO in Florham Park, New Jersey USA.

Very truly yours,
Tom Loga
Product Safety Officer
Daniel Measurement and Control, Inc.
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