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Approved: - 10/01/2011

Product Alert – BIFFI ELGA & WGR Models of Electric Actuator

Background

National Grid Gas Transmission have been made aware of a potential problem with BIFFI ELGA & WGR Models of Electric Actuator manufactured during 2006.

A number of units located on Nether Kellet Compressor Station had been found during a routine maintenance inspection to have signs of scorching or over heating of components located on an internal PCB.

Although the units are still operational, evidence of short circuiting or power surge on the power card has been experienced. The damage has caused the PCB track to come off with severe blackening around the area on the card and inner wall of the control group housing.

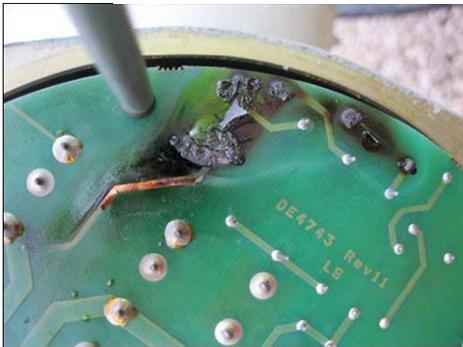


Fig.1 – Damaged track on the PCB card



Fig.2 – Signs of overheating on resistors

BIFFI's engineering department have advised that there have only been a few occurrences of overheating of these three resistors on the power card. The resistors act as suppressors on the high voltage circuit and are there to eliminate interference when the electric motor is running. In extreme circumstance on high voltage units (>500 v) that are subject to repeated use over short periods of time, overheating of the resistors can occur damaging the resistors and connecting track on the PCB card.

It should be noted that the problem ONLY effects units manufactured in 2006, BIFFI identified the potential problem and have revised the resistor values on all units from 2007 onwards.

Actions

The following actions should be undertaken during the next routine maintenance/inspection activity:

1. Visually inspect the actuator nameplate to check date of manufacture, its location on the nameplate has been circled in Fig.3.
2. If found to be manufactured during 2006,
 - a. Remove control group housing to inspect for signs of short circuiting or overheating, as shown in Fig.1 & 2. **Note : All electrical supplies must be isolated prior to removal of covers.**
 - b. Contact Steve Johnstone (07867-905922) or Steve Law (07767-382862) for further guidance.



Fig.3 – Actuator Nameplate

For further information regarding this Bulletin please contact your Line Manager or Steve Johnstone on 07867-905922