

Engineering Bulletin EB/386

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Safety advice for GFSA closures

Background

A potential safety issue has been identified on the 24 inch filter closures at Dorney with GFSA closures. One of the filter closures is shown below in the figure on the left.



The original GFSA design incorporated a secondary latch design. Under trial conditions, it was found to be possible to open the filter door with residual pressure inside the vessel. The door was designed to release the door holding elements inside the door with a 10 degree movement of the door operating lever; a further 5 degree movement disengaged the secondary latch fingers visible on the door from the blocks on the filter body.

If a high force is applied to open the closure, it was found that the secondary latching fingers failed to restrain the door.

Actions

Before a planned modification takes place, the following safety advice should be followed during any maintenance activities on these types of closures. Prior to opening the filter door ensure that:

- Both the inlet and outlet filter isolation valves are fully closed and body vented.
- Close both of the filter DP switch valves as shown on the figure (right), fit vent pipes.
- Vent down the filter using the filter DP switch valves, close valves for 5 minutes and check for let-by, reopen valves and proceed with door opening as detailed below.
- Remove the closure vent plug to ensure the vessel has been fully de-pressurised. As an additional safeguard, ensure the filter DP switch valves are in the open position.

Personnel operating the door operating lever, as well as any other personnel on site, must position themselves on the filter body side of the door, so that in the event of the door suddenly opening, the door will open away from them.

The door operating lever should be operated in 2 stages:

- Initially only move the door operating lever to operate the door holding elements inside the door ensuring that the latch fingers are still restrained by the blocks on the filter body.
- Finally move the door operating lever to release the latch fingers.

Use of excessive force to operate the door operating lever may indicate that the filter vessel has residual pressure remaining inside.

- For further information regarding this Bulletin please contact your Line Manager or Robert Owen (Gas Distribution) on 07721 748008 or Dominic Feenan (Gas Transmission) on 07747 476317
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