

Instrument Tags

Over the last few weeks Moomba CHF#7 heater tripped about half a dozen times because of Main Burner Failure. The cause was eventually tracked to a hole in the combustion air flow transmitter impulse tubing. The damaged tubing is shown below, after removal from service. While the hole appears to have been made by a hacksaw blade, it was actually made by the stainless steel transmitter identification tag which was resting on the tubing, apparently for a considerable time (possibly since installation in late 2004)



A similar problem caused this time by ~1mm stainless steel multi-strand cable attaching the ID tag to an annubar was also found on CHF #6.



This type of damage causes erratic behaviour of process control equipment and is hard to trace. In addition the damage reduces the structural integrity of the instrument tubing which could lead to a failure and release of process fluids or gases for lines operating at process pressures.



In both these cases the instrument lines are operating at very low pressure so there was little risk from the damage

Personnel are requested to inspect instrument tags as they move around Process and Production facilities. Where tags are found in contact with tubing, the tag is to be relocated by shortening the attaching wire or cable. Any tubing showing significant damage is to be replaced.

Engineering and Reliability will revise the relevant Santos Specifications to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

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