

Safety Alert

31 October 2024

Orion

SA2410 – Critical Risk - Asset Failure

Failure of Low Voltage Panel Disconnect

Orion has recently identified quality issues with low voltage (LV) distribution panels.

Initial investigation revealed a critical connection between an LV disconnect and an LV busbar was inadequate.

Further investigation revealed other critical connection points on the LV bus exhibiting quality issues with the riv-nut used to secure the disconnect to the bus.

These issues led to thread galling/binding, creating a high resistant connection resulting in overheating and a fire hazard.

What we would like you to do:

- Pre-installation: verify that all threads are free of defects and a stainless-steel bolt can be freely moved by hand along the entire length of the thread.
- Use stainless-steel bolts of dissimilar grades to the riv-nuts for mounting the disconnectors and apply a copper coat or thread lubricant to the bolts.
- Ensure all stainless-steel bolts are torqued and comply with Orion Standard Construction drawing UF1.4.2.
- On completion, ensure that all connections are correctly tightened, with the Belville washer fully compressed.
- Report any issues to Orion Engineering or Connetics Stores.

What we are doing:

- Discussing the issue within our Underground working group and making Service Delivery Partners aware.
- Orion Engineering are updating specifications to specify the use of dissimilar grades of stainless-steel fasteners and applying lubricants on all mounting bolts.
- Communicating the issue to the supplier and requesting more thorough quality checks be performed.
- Continuing to monitor the situation.

