Operations Bulletin

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Bulletin No 119 Eaton (Carter) Hydrant Pit Coupler Serious Incident 20 February 2019

For the urgent attention of all users of Eaton (Carter) hydrant pit couplers, manufactured 20th March 2013 to 8th January 2016: 64800/64810; 64900/64910 and 61525/64545 Series

Background

JIG has been made aware of a serious incident that occurred on 14th Feb 2019 at a major International airport location, when a hydrant pit coupler assembly failed during the fuelling of an Airbus A-380, resulting in a large pressurized Jet Fuel spray of approximately 300 litres on and around the aircraft. Members of the shareholding companies visited the site to review the incident. The equipment distributor has collected the damaged assembly for a detailed evaluation.

As part of the preliminary investigation, it has been revealed that two of the six carbon steel fasteners that secure the upper and lower half together failed resulting in a fracture of the pit coupler upper half casting. These fasteners are the subject of the attached Service Bulletin.

As noted in the attached SB, Eaton decided to change the previously selected stainless-steel stud to a black oxide coated steel stud (P/N 221221), in order to improve field serviceability and repair.

As noted by Eaton, a number of corrosion-related hydrogen embrittlement issues were reported, which had resulted (or may result) in stud material failure. On 6th August 2018 Eaton announced that they identified the suspect population of hydrant pit couplers with the affected studs (P/N 221321) and provided inspection methods to determine if the affected studs were in use.

During investigation of this latest incident it has also come to JIG's attention that Operators using these pit couplers may not be aware of the Service Bulletin issued in 2018 and may not yet have checked their equipment. For this reason, we are alerting our Members of this latest incident and advising them what actions to take.

Case for action

JIG and the EI are working with Eaton in determining if additional course of actions is required to address the cause(s) of this problem and prevent similar serious incidents from re-occurring. A further bulletin may be issued in the future.

In the meantime, given the potential consequences of this design modification, all users shall carry out the inspection described in the attached SB, as a matter of priority as soon as practically possible but in any case, by no later than 31st March 2019. If found, all carbon steel studs shall be replaced with stainless steel studs supplied by Eaton as a matter of priority.

Eaton Black Oxide Bulletin 2018.pdf

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Actions to Implement this Bulletin (See Table 1 for Action Type Codes)

Action Description	Action Type	Target Completion Date
Users of affected Eaton equipment shall review the attached notification and if found, all carbon steel studs shall be replaced with stainless steel studs supplied by Eaton (Carter) as a matter of priority.	Required Action	31st March 2019

Table 1 Action Type Codes

Action Types	JIG Bulletin Action Type Definition
JS	Change to JIG Standard – to be adopted by JV and/or Operator to continue to meet the JIG Standard(s) (JIG 1, 2, 4, EI/JIG 1530 and the JIG HSSE Management System).
RA	Required Action to implement one off verification or checks outlined in the table of actions.
RP	JIG Recommended Practice which the JV should consider adopting as its own practice (**).
I	Issued for information purposes only.
Note (**) - If the JV agreements require any of the JIG Standards and/or any of the JIG Common Processes as the governing operational standard then adoption of changes to applicable JIG Standards and/or Common Processes should not be considered optional by the JV Board.	