

Technical Bulletin 110

BOAR BOLTER– GSN0290 ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Alfabs has completed an engineering assessment of the BOAR Bolter in response to Global Safety Notice GSN0290 regarding potential pinch point hazards associated with Timberjack retraction.

The BOAR Bolter differs from the configuration referenced in GSN0290, including differences in Timberjack pressure control architecture. Accordingly, Alfabs conducted engineering review and functional testing to assess the applicability of the OEM recommendations.

The findings and recommendations contained within this bulletin are considered applicable to BOAR Bolters fitted with JOY HFX rigs, including machines fitted with Rexroth and ICM3 control systems.

Assessment Findings

- Testing identified that drill steel bending can occur during Timberjack retraction under certain conditions, creating a potential pinch point hazard consistent with that described in GSN0290.
- The BOAR Bolter differs from the OEM configuration referenced in GSN0290 and therefore the OEM recommendations were assessed for applicability rather than adopted automatically.
- Testing demonstrated that reducing Timberjack pressure to 60 bar greatly reduced the aggressiveness of drill steel bending behaviour but did not eliminate drill steel bending.
- Testing demonstrated that a 60 bar setting provided an effective balance between risk reduction and machine performance on the machine tested.

Alfabs Recommendation

Based on testing completed to date, Alfabs recommends installation of a 60 bar relief valve in the Timberjack retract circuit as a risk reduction measure.

Alfabs has developed a retrofit kit for existing BOAR Bolters.

Sites should assess the suitability of this recommendation through their site-specific risk assessment process. Sites not adopting the modification should ensure appropriate controls are implemented to manage the identified hazard.

Customers interested in the retrofit modification should contact Alfabs for further information.

Ongoing Risk Management

The recommended modification does not eliminate drill steel bending or the associated pinch point hazard.

Operators should remain aware of the potential pinch point hazard during Timberjack retraction and keep hands clear of the drill steel and feed assembly. Appropriate site procedures, training, risk assessments and operational controls should remain in place regardless of whether the recommended modification is installed.

For further information or to discuss your machine configuration, please contact your Alfabs representative.

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