Step Change Safety Alert Template

Alert Title

Fine spray of diesel was leaking from Dowty seal in turbine enclosure and observed spraying onto combustion cans.

Incident Date

26th January, 2013

Location Type

Platform

Specific Equipment Involved

Turbine, hoses, seals

Description of What Happened

During daily inspections an operator observed through an inspection window a small drip underneath the turbine and also what looked like a small wisp of smoke. When the turbine enclosure was opened a fine spray of diesel was observed leaking from a Dowty seal on the upper distribution block. The diesel was spraying onto one of the turbine combustion cans. The decision was taken to take the unit out of service using a controlled production shutdown.

The leak had been preceded over a couple of days by several minor weeps/seeps from diesel pipe work within the enclosure. Monitoring of the turbine enclosure was therefore subject to an increased frequency.

The pipe work had been disconnected during the 2012 TAR and it was intended to change out the diesel hose assemblies at this time. This was not carried out due to incorrect fittings on the replacement hoses, so the original hoses were re-fitted

Cause of Incident

Insufficient sealing of flexible pipe work at the Diesel Distribution Block due to;

- Inadequate mating surface
- Failed Dowty washer

Incident Consequences

Minor hydrocarbon release; unplanned shut down of equipment

Lessons Learned

- Reuse of joints, seals, washers has been key factor in this failure, coupled with lack of required new materials
- Communication to all sites to reiterate that Dowty washers are not to be refitted after a joint is broken.
- Planning processes must ensure correct fittings/material/equipment is required prior to mobilisation

Recommendations/Actions

Remedial steps conducted on equipment
Above lessons communicated to all sites to ensure key failures are known and not repeated

Contact Details (Optional)

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