

Step Change Safety Alert



Alert Title

HC leak from MOL pig launcher door due to seal failure

Incident Date

12.01.2013

Location Type

Fixed Installation

Specific Equipment Involved

Pig Launcher

Description of What Happened

The production plant was stable, and the Pipeline Pigging Group requested on 11/01/13 that a pig be launched in the line at the earliest opportunity.

The pig launch line up (interlock valve sequence) commenced circa 1355 12/01/13 by the operations team, during line up the Production Operator noticed the door seal had failed and closed the valve he was opening immediately prior to noticing the seal failure.

While the operator was in the process of reporting this to the control room two gas heads came in and initiated a ESD1 (Shutdown & blow down) – resulting in GPA

Cause of Incident

- Door seal failure
- Procedural best practice for leak testing (regarding test period validity) not clearly stated in procedure

Incident Consequences

Gas head activation resulting in Hydrocarbon Release and GPA

Lessons Learned

- The quality of the door seal installation may not have been as per procedure
- There was no requirement documented for further leak test requirements if there was a prolonged waiting period after the initial test

Recommendations/Actions

- Ensure specified trade discipline change the door seal as per procedure 'Operation and Maintenance of Band Lock Seals'.
- Upgrade Pig Launcher door seal to ensure fit for service
- Review Pig Launcher door design philosophy
- Update procedure to clearly define leak test requirements (retest after prolonged period)

Contact Details (Optional)

Gary Begg, Hydrocarbon Release Prevention Leader, Talisman Energy