

Press Safety Retrofit Speed Record A Z142-02 Compliance Case Study

By Jeff Ashcroft

As the entire metal stamping industry in Canada still continued to wrestle with how to best address the issues surrounding compliance with the CSA Z142-02 safety standard by the December 2004 deadline, Decoma International's Co-Ex-Tec Division took decisive action. In fact what may well become a safety retrofit speed record might have been set with the full retrofit and rewiring of 61 presses completed in only eight short weeks.

In mid-2004 Mike Fish, Health & Safety Manager and Mark Hirsch, Maintenance Supervisor of Co-Ex-Tec attended one of Reflex Integration's Open House Safety Briefings to learn more and discuss potential options for bringing all of their metal stamping presses into compliance with the CSA Z142-02 safety standard.

One of the key new requirements for meeting the Z142-02 safety standard is that all safety related equipment and devices on the press be connected to a "control reliable" monitoring device. In this way any faults with the press or safety monitoring devices can be immediately detected and the hazardous motion of the metal stamping press halted.

The Command Stamp unit (insert picture of CS unit) developed by Reflex Integration in Canada provides control reliability through the use of two different microprocessors and software programs operating independently to perform this task.

This gives the Command Stamp unit the added protection of diverse redundancy avoiding the possibility of "common mode failures" which can occur in some other systems on the market which only use two of the same processor for this purpose.

Following further discussions and review demonstrations of the Command Stamp unit with Wade Bonhomme, Plant Manager, at Decoma International's Co-Ex-Tec Division it was agreed October 18th to move forward rapidly with the retrofit of the presses at the Magna division.

The most important issue to Co-Ex-Tec in developing the schedule was how to minimize the impact of press downtime during the implementation of these required safety changes and they worked together with Mark Pendlebury, Craig Sharma and Nino Tuzi of Reflex to develop a workable program.

Since that time what may well be a record of 61 press safety retrofits in 8 weeks have been completed which included full rewiring of all the presses involved by Nino Tuzi and his crack team of installation professionals.

The implementation of such an aggressive Z142-02 program by this division of Magna positions Decoma International's Co-Ex-Tec as a leader when it comes to operational safety and most importantly the protection of their dedicated employees.

Jeff Ashcroft

Reflex Integration

(905) 836-8103

jeff@reflexintegration.com

www.reflexintegration.com