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RE: Requests for Information on Schmidt Bulk Units

We have recently received multiple requests for information concerning some design characteristics of the Schmidt® Bulk Abrasive Blasting Units. Schmidt Manufacturing, Inc. designed and introduced the first Schmidt 120 cf and 160 cf units in 1981.

Since their creation we have not been informed of piping components on a Schmidt Bulk Unit exhaust system (“blowdown”) experiencing wear resulting in an incident. The internal piping of all Schmidt Bulk Units was designed to minimize abrasives becoming airborne during the depressurization process which would increase wear on all of the fittings in the exhaust or blowdown stream. This design, which has been continuously in use for 34 years, has proven itself in virtually every heavy industry application imaginable.

Since 2010 the Schmidt Bulk Unit blowdown system contains a Controlled Expansion Nozzle (“CEN”). The CEN™ is a machined orifice in the blowdown exhaust system. It controls the expansion and velocity of the exhaust air thereby further minimizing the opportunity for dust to abrade the exhaust system components. The exhaust system also incorporates a silencer that reduces the noise levels during blowdown. This system allows the operator to fully open the exhaust valve and safely achieve full depressurization of a 160 cubic foot unit in about 8 minutes.

The safety of the original blowdown system was never in question and has withstood the test of time. The CEN was introduced and made a standard feature on Schmidt Bulk Units to allow operators to depressurize units in a consistent and timely manner without contending with the excessive noise.

There is discussion within our industry of “automatic” blowdown systems on Bulk Units. An automatic blowdown system must contain actuated valves on the inlet and the exhaust. It must also contain multiple smaller parts, a control system and a power source. The complexity of this type of system increases the likelihood for component and system failure. It also creates an opportunity for unintentional operation of the valves when a power source or other related components fail. This type of system does not require an operator to confirm the inlet valve is closed and then confirm the area around the exhaust valve is free of obstructions or personnel before depressurizing the unit.

There are other meaningful safety benefits that Schmidt Bulk Units offer.

- Axxiom developed and made standard the 3” flanged cleanout for Bulk Units in 2008.
 - Allows operators to empty a unit without employing a large pipe wrench.
- Axxiom invented and made standard the Halok® Closure Safety System in 2010.
 - This system prevents operators from opening and closing the 10” closures without following proper Standard Operating Procedures.
(See attached article on the Halok)
- Axxiom developed and made standard the Ergo Ladder for our Bulk Units in 2010.
 - Provides a safer and more comfortable means to access the 10” closure
- , Axxiom developed and made standard the Manway Stay Brackets in 2013.
 - Assists the operators while installing the manway cover.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us or one of our knowledgeable distributors. If you would like assistance in locating a distributor, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bill Nelson



Vice President Sales and Business Development