

SAFETY ALERT – FAILURE OF EMERGENCY STOPS

During maintenance, a precautionary test was carried out on the Operation of the E-stop buttons on the Gravity Belt Thickeners at Crossness STW. The Emergency Stop button failed to stop the Gravity Belt. Upon investigation it was found that the Emergency Stop button lid can be rotated 90 degrees and installed, such that the button lugs fail to engage the lugs, which will open the electrical contacts.

Further testing of the adjacent belts also revealed that these had the same installed issue. Investigations are ongoing to determine how this fault arose and what checks were made during the commissioning of the belts. Since this issue arose at Riverside it has been reported they have experienced issues with the contact blocks parting from the box in the past.

All site managers with Alfa Laval Simon-Hartley supplied Belt Thickeners need to check the operation of the Emergency Stops.

Representations to the supplier are being made to improve the design such that the lids containing the stop buttons cannot be rotated, upon installing the cover.



