



SAFETY ISSUE REGARDING THE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE SPINDLE EARTH WIRE

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As part of Westwind's continual observation procedures, it has become apparent that some OEMs' are not using the spindle earth wire correctly. The earth wire is fitted as a safety precaution and inappropriate use may place the end user at risk. This could result in the spindles body being live during routine maintenance.

Many OEMs' use a contact drilling interface and use the earth wire as a method to supply the spindle with the signal. If this system is not designed correctly then any internal short within the spindle will not trigger the appropriate safety cut-out on the drive. Westwind recommend that all OEMs' should carry out a risk analysis on their contact drilling interface circuitry as a precaution.

Westwind has raised this issue with the drive suppliers who have issued the following advice: When a contact drilling interface causes the earth to have a high resistance then, a voltage leakage caused by a short would not necessarily raise an alarm condition, it is only when the current level is higher than the limits set in the drive that the drive will raise an alarm condition.

If further assistance is required, please contact Westwind Technical Support:
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