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Subject: Burton Connector – Advice on correct assembly procedure.

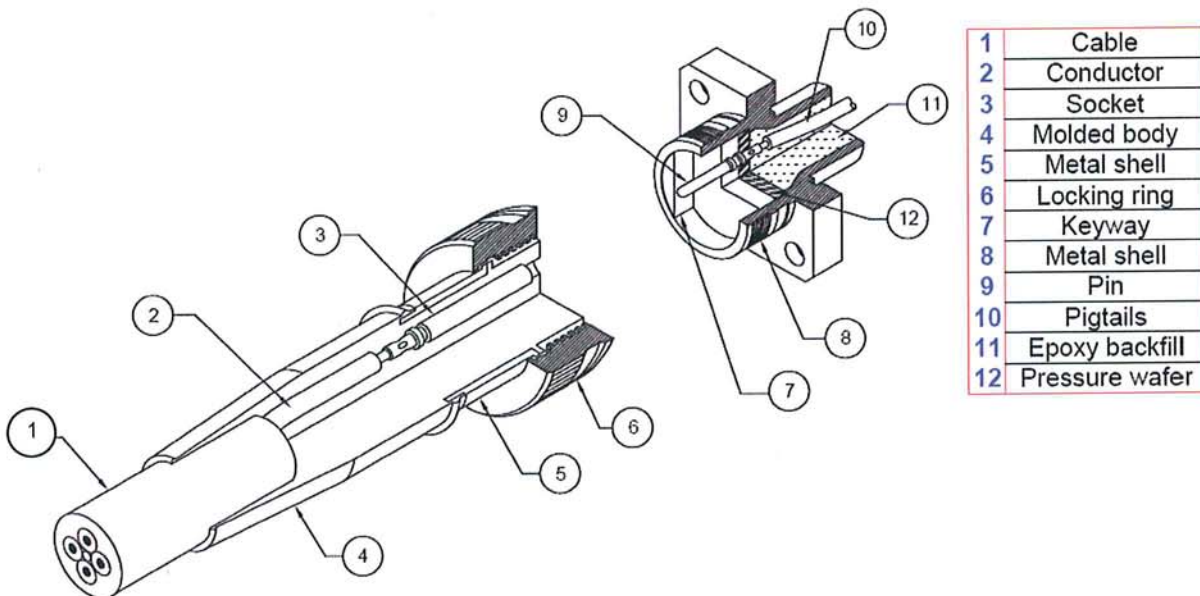
1. Introduction

Through investigation and root cause analysis of our equipment it has been identified that numerous field issues relating to Burton connectors (as used in Sonardyne RovNAv 5 range of products) may have been avoided if the correct assembly of the Male to Female halves had been employed.

2. Recommendations

Please find the following highlighted extracts from the Burton Manual which will guide you to successful assembly and reassembly ensuring reliability and durability of the connection.

5500 Series Connector



- Page 5

The seal is a face type seal, integrally moulded as part of the plug and cannot fail.

- Page 24

To Engage

Ref # 1. Lightly coat the face, sides and sealing surface of the plug with clean Dow Corning DC-4 silicone grease. Be sure there is no moisture on the components.

Burton recommends a "closure" procedure. Over tightening will distort the rubber possibly resulting in leakage:

Ref # 3. When the sealing surfaces touch, spin the coupling nut on until it just touches and give it an additional one half turn (1 full turn on 15 size). Caution: the sealing surfaces must be touching for the additional half turn to seal the connector properly. If the coupling plug is used as a gauge to engagement, back the nut off completely to obtain visual confirmation of the sealing surface contact. Applying more turns than necessary will distort the rubber, possibly resulting in leakage and/or physical damage.

To Disengage

Ref # 1. Unscrew the coupling nut completely. Note: After deep initial dives the nut may be loose. This is normal.

Page 25

Cleaning and reuse

Burton stresses the importance of cleaning the plug and receptacle before use.

Inspection

- A. Inspect the connector for bent or otherwise damaged pins and corrosion.
- B. Metal sealing surfaces must be free from scratches, nicks and dents. This applies to both O-ring sealing surfaces and connector sealing surfaces
- C. The rubber sealing surfaces must also be free of cuts, nicks and tears. Notes On used connectors the rubber sealing surface may have an impression of the metal sealing surface on it. This is normal.

The Burton manual which can be found on the website:

<http://www.innova.no/pdf/Burton%20Underwater%20Catalog03-01-2002.pdf>

In addition to the manufacturer's recommendations, which are also summarised in Appendix D of the RovNav Maintenance manual MM-8010, Sonardyne recommend a careful inspection of the connectors prior to mating.

If there is any evidence of distortion of the rubber parts (Fig.1), existing corrosion on the pins or scratching of the knurled locking ring (fig.2), due to previous users over-tightening the connector by use of a wrench, the connector should be considered damaged. In this case the equipment should only be deployed with an understanding that there is a risk of the connector leaking with consequential loss of performance and corrosion of the pins.

Equipment returning to shore base should be inspected on return to assess any such damage caused by inexperienced users. (See the following pictures).



Fig.1



Fig.2

(Old type connector)

We suggest that all customers and specifically hire companies introduce a pre and post deployment check list relating to these essential checks.

Should you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact us through our Customer Support helpline on:

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