

Safety First: New valve will reduce risk of hydraulic torque wrench related hand injuries

Bolting Systems, an SPX® FLOW brand, has announced the launch of its Bolting Flow Control Valve (BFCV), designed to prevent accidental operation while a torque wrench is being positioned by the operator, minimizing the risk of entrapment or nipped fingers during setup. The valve completely isolates the wrench from the pump, is lightweight and easy to use.

In noisy environments or where line of sight between pump and tool operators is impeded, there is the possibility of miscommunication. If an operator starts the pump before a torque wrench is in position, this can lead to severe hand injuries. The BFCV can be used with any model of torque wrench, giving control to the tool operator and isolating the tool from the pump until it is in position. Unlike some alternative solutions, the unit is lightweight and the trigger fully pressure balanced, making it easy to operate even over prolonged periods. The trigger is squeezed upwards, away from the valve and is positioned to keep the operator's hand away from the pressure part of the valve.

David Campbell, Global Product Director & Site Lead – Bolting Systems at SPX FLOW, said: “The BFCV has all the safety features to protect tool operators' hands from accidental pump operation but we designed the unit to be extremely practical and easy to use on-site. It is not heavy or cumbersome, the fully balanced trigger is lightweight to operate, and the design ensures no undue stress on the tool hydraulic connections, which can lead to premature leakage.”

The launch of the BFCV follows a series of successful trials with a major international oil company. The valve's ergonomic design reduces hand fatigue and its two-stage trigger system, comprising interlock and trigger, prevents accidental starting. Its use ensures operators can safely carry out tool drive direction changes and link switch over on low profile tools. Safety is further enhanced as, during the torque operation, the operator can override the pump and stop the wrench at any time.

Other features of the valve include generous handle space and non-slip handles for easy operation even with gloved hands. The valve is pressure tested to minimum 20,000 psi (1380 bar), providing a 2:1 safety factor, and although of lightweight construction, it is highly robust and corrosion resistant for use in harsh working environments.

About SPX FLOW, Inc.:

Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, SPX FLOW, Inc. (NYSE: FLOW) innovates with customers to help feed and enhance the world by designing, delivering and servicing high value solutions at the heart of growing and sustaining our diverse communities. The company's product offering is concentrated in rotating, actuating and hydraulic technologies, as well as automated process systems, into food and beverage and industrial markets. SPX FLOW has approximately \$1.5 billion in annual revenues with operations in more than 30 countries and sales in more than 100 countries.

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