

Trapped pressure and quick release couplings.

Holmbury have been in the business of offering quick release couplings (or “QRC’s”) for over 30 years and have one of the most comprehensive product ranges on the market but recently we discovered a very interesting fact!

During the recent PlantWorx 2019 exhibition we discovered that more than 60% of people, who visited our stand, stated that their biggest day to day issue concerning QRC’s was dealing with trapped pressure.

Standard “Do’s & Don’ts” advice with the majority of couplings says that you should shut the pressure off before disconnecting/connecting couplings (it’s amazing how many people don’t actually know this!). So, taking away the simply forgetful folk from the equation who didn’t read the instructions and those that actually *did* follow procedure, what are the other reasons they’re still experiencing trapped system pressure and consequently troublesome QRC’s?

Air entering the system from the pump side is a common mischief maker and cavitation as this phenomenon is commonly called, can be caused by a variety of factors. Air or fluid loss can occur at a variety of different places such as valves, hose fittings or even the hose itself and a further, often overlooked, culprit can be thermal expansion of the media. This can occur when high temperatures generated within the system decrease the density of the hydraulic oil which in turn leads to an increased volume/expansion and you guessed ittrapped pressure!

The good news is that Holmbury has a variety of solutions available, but people seem to be unaware so please read on!

Let’s consider one of the most commonly used couplings, the ISO16028 flat faced male, not designed to be connected under pressure. The Holmbury HCP series male is fully interchangeable with this and is designed to be connected under pressure.

“But how much more is that going to cost me??” While it’s true that the piece price is a little more, what is the real cost of not investing those extra few pennies on the right tool for the job?

Let’s consider the typical costs directly associated with trying to ‘release’ trapped pressure.

This process generally involves a heavy or pointy tool, shouting a few choice expletives and the ultimate demise of the original coupling. We then factor in the possible dumping of the hydraulic oil, maybe an environmental charge for contamination, down time of ‘X’ hours on your expensive plant equipment, the operators wages and a trip to your local friendly Holmbury dealer to bemoan the ‘faulty’ coupling to find out your warranty is well and truly void.....sounding costly (or familiar)?

A typical cost example of the above activity can run into thousands of pounds and of course if not correctly resolved has the potential to reoccur. Starting to wish you’d spent a little more on an HCP coupling now?

Holmbury has a range of couplings for dealing with trapped pressure, so to find out more, contact our sales office or arrange an appointment with a Holmbury representative today.

