

Subject: Safety Advisory - Numatics Injection Valves on Fishertech Injected Metal Assembly ('IMA') Equipment.

Fishertech has received a few isolated reports of molten zinc alloy being inadvertently ejected from the nozzle of certain machine assembled with Numatics brand valve stacks which have been in use for many years. This creates a risk of personal injury to operators and others in the vicinity of a machine during operation.

The affected IMA Equipment have Serial Numbers from 97-1409 to 2000-1559. This equipment was manufactured and assembled by a predecessor to the company between January 1997 and August 2000.

This Advisory is issued to alert and inform users of this IMA equipment of proper testing, maintenance and repair procedures to avoid such occurrences.

From our investigation of the small number of reported incidences, we have concluded that the cause is wear of the isolation discs between the pneumatic injection valve and the other pneumatic valves configured in a stack arrangement, a photo of which is included in Appendix I attached. The wear of the isolation discs on machines in use for many years may cause the isolation discs to partially fail, permitting pressurized air exhausting from the actuators to unintentionally enter the injection valve circuit, causing the injection plunger to move. As a result, molten zinc alloy would then eject inadvertently.

In response to the possibility that isolation discs may become worn, Fishertech is recommending that your regular maintenance program should include testing of the performance of the isolation discs, and replacement of the isolation discs if necessary, in accordance with the attached Appendix II: *“Recommendations on testing, Repair and Maintenance of ‘Numatics’ Brand Valve Stacks”*

Fishertech reminds users of IMA Equipment that the equipment needs to be maintained in good condition to operate properly and safely. The equipment has proven to be extremely reliable and durable, but anything unusual in machine operation or performance needs to be investigated