

Submersible Pump Start-up Tips

By: John Hayward
President
Hayward Gordon Ltd.

There are some important installation and start-up procedures that can go a long way to ensuring a trouble free start-up and reliable ongoing operation of submersible pumps.

A very high percentage of the problems that occur during start-up of submersible pumps relate to the mechanical seals and/or the seal failure warning system.

Regarding the installation itself, it is very important to determine that the control wiring for the seal warning (moisture detection) system is isolated in a separate conduit from the motor's power wires. If this is not done, nuisance indications of moisture detection can occur.

It is also important to ensure that the moisture detection system is connected – failure to do so will void the motor warranty. A control relay is required to complete the moisture detection system, the relay can be supplied by Hayward Gordon or by the end user.

Prior to installation of the pump, it is highly recommended to reach in to the suction and rotate the impeller by hand. This procedure ensures that the stationary faces of the mechanical seals are properly seated as they can sometimes be disturbed during shipment.

If seal warning indicators still occur on start-up even after following these procedures, let the pump run for at least 24 hours. It is possible for a small amount of moisture to leak into the seal chamber while the seal runs in. If this is the case, the moisture should soon dissipate and the warning indicator should turn off.

