

Large Petrochemical User Achieves Safer, More Efficient Maintenance of Electrical Equipment

RESULTS

- Achieved OSHA safety compliance with Appleton™ PlexPower™ Panelboards by Emerson.
- Lessened danger to plant maintenance employees who access electrical systems and equipment.
- Eliminated need for heavy cast enclosures in hazardous locations.



APPLICATION

Power distribution in chemical processing plant

CHALLENGE

A global chemicals manufacturer required reliable, safe power distribution in the numerous hazardous locations situated throughout its processing facility — one of the world's largest propylene oxide (PO) and tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) plants. The manufacturer's unwavering safety commitment called for a solution capable of fully isolating power whenever plant maintenance crews accessed electrical equipment, such as motors, pumps, lighting systems, and heat tracing, to safeguard against industrial accidents and ensure OSHA compliance. Maximizing return-on-investment also meant a solution balancing superior performance with low total-cost-of-ownership.

SOLUTION

The Appleton PlexPower Panelboard by Emerson features a deep enclosure to accommodate multiple OSHA-compliant lockout tags, therefore making it possible to isolate power whenever the plant's electrical machinery needs repair or scheduled maintenance. Also incorporated was a tool-safe internal cover that prevents an employee of accidentally contacting live electrical wires.

The PlexPower Panelboard uses circuit breaker modules that provide explosionproof protection for standard off-the-shelf breakers—eliminating the need for a heavy cast enclosure. This component level protection means the panelboard enclosure is lighter, more compact and easier to install.

The Emerson Appleton PlexPower solution was standardized throughout the entire processing operation, bringing improved worker safety, increased production uptime, and significant cost and labor savings to the manufacturer.

Breakers can be easily replaced, upgraded or added in the field with no bolted cover to remove, no need for sealing or rewiring and no danger of compromising flamepath integrity. By utilizing standard “off the shelf” circuit breakers the PlexPower reduces inventory costs and installation challenges for maintenance personnel.

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