



Flameproof panel manufacturing secrets

This August after experiencing all sorts of logistical challenges we fell behind schedule on the delivery of three sets of power distribution and emergency generator control panels meant to provide dark start capability to offshore platforms. Each panel with the frame weighs almost two tons. The flameproof (Ex d) enclosures used for the panels are the largest and second largest to be manufactured in Europe, each can easily accommodate a small CEO of a car manufacturing conglomerate.

To meet our schedule commitment, we had to innovate and resort to concurrent manufacturing of panels and support frames. Traditionally the frames for such panels are manufactured after the actual dimensions of assembled enclosures can be measured. Our engineers were able to calculate the correct dimensions based on past experience.

The construction of such panels from stainless steel flameproof enclosures connected by two sets of compound seal tubing each requires a particular knowhow that Atex System has developed over the years. Unusual mechanical machining precision and old school fitting skills are necessary to be able to perfectly align four enclosures in two dimensions and tighten all the connections to the right torque without losing the alignment. Marine paint was applied for a long life in the Persian Gulf.

