



Health and Safety Warning

Caution when using the Break Away Connector (BAC)



All customers must educate their drivers and operatives on how to correctly operate Newson Gale Earth-Rite grounding systems whilst loading and unloading trucks/lorries, etc.

In simple terms the grounding clamp needs to be fitted to the designated earth point on the truck before any other operation is carried out. Once the high intensity GREEN LED's begin to flash then the truck and the product transfer are protected.

When the product transfer is completed the last operation that needs to take place is for the driver/operator to remove the grounding clamp, its cable and walk them back and place them onto the stowage point on the junction box.

When a road tanker/tank truck drives off without removing the clamp and cable the following happens:

Eventually the clamp, cable, quick connectors, glands, conduit or junction box and/or Earth-Rite monitoring units separate, break or get pulled off their mounting points (bricks or steel), causing extensive and expensive damage.

This type of incident also prevents any further use of this safety equipment until it is repaired.

Whatever parts that do not stay with the truck will fly back towards the point of installation. Clearly, a hazard worth preventing.

Newson Gale has now released a new break away connector assembly to try and mitigate this situation. The BAC Breakaway Connector fits in line with the grounding clamp and cable but does not remove the requirement for the operator to maintain good working practices and remove the clamp after the transfer is complete. If the truck is driven off, the grounding clamp and short piece of the BAC assembly is designed to separate to try and mitigate the impact of potential damage/injury. This means that only the clamp and half of the BAC assembly need to be replaced and should no damage occur then the system can be operational without the need for a repair by a skilled technician to take place therefore reducing any potential downtime of the system/installation.

Please be aware that if the truck is driven off - with the clamp and cable still attached - and the BAC assembly separates, the remaining end of the cable (in the form of a spiral or on a cable reel) can still fly back towards the point of where it is installed.

This could be a Health and Safety hazard and needs to be fully understood and assessed, by the user before purchase and/or installation in order to determine the risk that any damage/injury could present.

The BAC mitigates and reduces the results of the drive-off, but it does not remove them entirely only the driver can do that. The user should be aware that the device can be used to try and mitigate against the impact of injury/damage that a drive off may present, but it is in no way a substitution for the correct use of the system which requires the user to remove the clamp from the vehicle before the vehicle moves after the transfer operation has been completed. Failure to do this may result in injury/damage occurring due to the uncontrolled movement of the cable and/or the disconnection of the cable from the connector which could result in the cable and connector retracting at a substantial velocity.

USING THE BREAKAWAY CONNECTOR DOES NOT REMOVE THE RISK OF INJURY/DAMAGE OCCURRING SHOULD GOOD WORKING PRACTICES AND RELEVANT SAFETY RULES NOT BE FOLLOWED. THE OPERATOR SHOULD ALWAYS REMOVE THE CLAMP FROM THE VEHICLE ONCE THE TRANSFER OPERATION IS COMPLETE AND BEFORE THE VEHICLE IS MOVED AT ALL.