Dear Modcon 75 Controller User,

MSA recently determined that there is an issue with the handling of faults of field devices by the Modcon 75 Controller. It is possible that certain Ultima® X Gas Monitors with X3® Technology (“Ultima X3 Monitors”) used in combination with a Modcon 75 Controller could have a sensor in a fault condition that is not displayed on the Modcon 75 Controller.

We have determined that Modcon 75 Controllers used in combination with Ultima X3 Monitors that are not equipped with relays will not report a monitor in fault. However, Ultima X3 Monitors equipped with relays that go into fault are correctly reported at the Modcon 75 Controller. It is important to note that this condition does not affect the ability of the Modcon 75 Controller to operate correctly while the Ultima X3 Monitors are not in fault.

MSA will rectify this condition through a software patch that will need to be installed on all Modcon 75 Controllers in your possession. We recommend installation of the software upgrade even on Modcon 75 Controllers used with Ultima X3 Monitors equipped with relays, where the faults are properly reported. This will prevent loss of fault reporting in the future, should you modify your system to use Ultima X3 Monitors not equipped with relays, where a fault is not currently reported.

This software upgrade will be installed free of charge. MSA will be in a position to begin upgrading the software in the field beginning May 1, 2015.

We recommend the following course of action as applicable:

1. Inspect all Ultima X3 Monitors to determine if they have relays. If any do not then routinely inspect them for faults until the Modcon 75 Controller software is updated.
2. If any field devices are in fault either replace or re-calibrate the unit as necessary.
3. Contact MSA Customer Service to schedule your Modcon 75 software upgrade at 1-800-672-4678 or field.service@msasafety.com.
When inspecting Ultima X3 Monitors for relays, locate the configuration code on the side of the transmitter:

Example configuration: A-UltimaX3E1M100003100000000000

The digit following the M in the configuration represents the relay option. If the digit is a 0 or 1 the unit does not have relays and a fault will not report at the Modcon 75 Controller.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, your safety and continued satisfaction with our products is most important to us. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-672-4678 or field.service@msasafety.com.

Best regards,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety

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