Press release

Innovative and reliable fire barrier solutions for the railway industry

New metal adapters from PMA ensure flexible installation and a secure barrier in the event of fire.

Nuremberg, November 25, 2014 – When it comes to designing railway vehicles, preventive fire protection is the top priority. In the event of fire, it is essential to limit the spread of fire and smoke as much as possible and to bring it under control. Places where cables run through fire protection walls may represent a weakness with regard to fire protection. PMA, a member of the ABB Group, has now developed a new type of fire barrier for use in conjunction with PMA’s proven cable protection systems. The various designs and modes of operation provide a reliable and secure solution for virtually any installation situation.

The new metal adapters from PMA, inlaid with intumescent material, make it possible to run cable protection systems through fire walls without compromising safety. The adapters can be adapted to any wall structure, making it simple and secure to install. They can be used with a variety of PMA cable protection system solutions. This allows for the highest possible degree of flexibility for any installation situation with standard railway technology cable protection.

In the event of a fire, the intumescent material securely isolates one area from another for at least 30 minutes (E30), tested in accordance with EN45545-3. We achieved this value by using a variety of PMA corrugated conduits and connecting components. The intumescent foam material expands to up to 40 times its original size when it is exposed to temperatures of approximately 160°C and above and is practically incombustible. The foaming prevents flames and heat from passing through the cable protection system into the adjoining area. The adapters are available as standard in sizes M16 to M63.

Together with the company Roxtec, PMA has developed another fire barrier solution. It is based on the Roxtec wall transit system that has been tried and tested for decades in railway construction and a specially developed PMA adapter, thus combining two standards in railway technology for fire safety. This system, too, uses intumescent material for separating two fire compartments.

The advantage of this solution is that the proven Roxtec wall transit system, with its simple and proven sleeve technology, can be used for both cables and cable protection at the same time. The designer of a wall transit has the highest level of flexibility during the planning stage, even with a large number of cables and corrugated conduits, whilst also ensuring a high level of safety in the event of a fire. The PMA and Roxtec solution also achieved an E30 classification, tested in accordance with EN45545-3.

Based in Uster, Switzerland, PMA is a worldwide supplier of high-quality cable protection systems, specialising in rail technology applications. For more than 30 years, PMA has been the leading supplier of cable protection products for railway vehicles worldwide.
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ABB in Germany achieved a turnover of 3.37 billion euro in 2013 and employs approximately 10,000 people. ABB is a leader in power and automation technology. The company enables its customers in the fields of energy supply, industry, transport and infrastructure to improve their performance while reducing their environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 145,000 people worldwide.

Note: All information according to US GAAP.

Pictures:

The new metal adapter from PMA.

The PMA solution provides a secure barrier in the event of fire.

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