

New Release

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Safety Annunciator achieves SIL2 rating for IEC 61508

RTK Instruments has recently launched the new SIL2 certified SIL725 Safety Annunciator, designed and manufactured to provide increased safety integrity for critical alarm applications and for use as a component part of a safety instrumented system (SIS). The unit is third party certified by SIRA using the CASS methodology at safety integrity level SIL2 in accordance with IEC 61508. The SIL725 has common safety relay outputs which are SIL2 compliant. The modular construction of the SIL725 allows units to be assembled in almost any size and shape.

In order to emphasise the significance of this product, there follows an explanation of some of the terms used above:

Functional Safety is concerned with products or systems whose failure to operate reliably could harm people or the environment. Now that functional safety issues are gaining importance in many industries, these concepts are being applied to all modern control equipment and **IEC61508** is the acceptable international standard which deals with the functional safety of electrical or electronic safety related systems. The standard uses a life-cycle approach which covers the whole life-cycle of the system from initial risk assessment through allocation of safety requirements, design and build, installation, commissioning and maintenance. The reliability of such systems is determined by the **Safety Integrity Level (SIL)** of the safety function they perform, with SIL1 being the lowest level of safety integrity and SIL4 the highest. The new **SIL725 Safety Annunciator** from RTK Instruments complies with IEC 61508 and has a safety integrity level of SIL2.

The Conformity Assessment of Safety-related Systems (**CASS**) methodology enables accredited third party certification bodies to offer consistent, transparent and traceable conformity assessment for safety related products and management systems that meet the

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Recorders x Display Facias x Hazardous Area Interface,
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Trip Amplifiers x Process Instrumentation



Certificate No. FM14290
ISO9001:2000



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requirements of IEC 61508. Traceable certification provides the end user with the assurance both that the product design complies with IEC 61508, and that the company has the necessary quality management systems to be able to manufacture the product in a repeatable and controlled manner. The third party testing house, **SIRA**, is accredited by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) to undertake its certification activities in accordance with the CASS Scheme, and is committed to helping its customers promote their products and services in the international market, with the highest level of credibility with regard to functional safety.

To summarise, SIRA used recognised CASS methodology to certify RTK Instruments' SIL725 Safety Annunciator to IEC 61508 (which is the accepted international standard for functional safety of electrical or electronic safety-related systems) at SIL level 2 for Product Approval. This includes a comprehensive FMEA study and physical testing. The certificate ensures that validation has been completed at design and build stages. Increasingly, certification to IEC 61508 is being encouraged by regulatory authorities and sought by end users as a way of minimising risk and demonstrating best practise. In fact, in contracts involving safety related systems, certification to IEC61508 is often a prerequisite, marking the leaders out from the competition.

Given the growing emphasis on functional safety assessment and risk reduction, and the importance of the role of annunciators in safety planning, the combination of user flexibility and SIL2 certification in the **SIL725 Safety Annunciator** will be very valuable to all those involved in instrumentation in the worldwide process industry and particularly the nuclear industry.

RTK Instruments, a member of the MTL Instruments Group, is a leading manufacturer of Alarm Annunciators and Systems, Event Recorders and Alarm Notification Products for all industry sectors and all environments including explosion-proof and intrinsically safe equipment for hazardous areas. RTK Instruments also offers an Engineered Solutions consultancy service to clients. Having an extensive product range with world leading

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designs, RTK is able to support all your alarm and display requirements. All products are backed up by a BSI accredited ISO 9001:2000 system and a 5 year warranty.

For further advice or information on our SIL725 Safety Annunciator or any of our products from our range, please visit our website www.rtkinstruments.com or call our Sales Team on +44 (0)1423 580500.

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