The Simplex® TrueStart Analysis And Testing Instrument

Diagnostic Tool Can Streamline the Fire Alarm Commissioning Process by Identifying Problems Before System Wiring Is Connected

Benefits:

- Simplify and streamline the fire alarm commissioning process
- Verify that wiring and peripheral devices are operating properly
- Identify problems before system wiring is connected to the control panel
- Download test information from instrument to PC for electronic report generation and archiving
- Based on voice-of-the-customer in put from contractors, engineers and owners

By the nature of their business, contractors focus on completing projects on time and under budget. Delays of any sort are troublesome, because they can postpone project completion and jeopardise the timely issuance of an occupancy permit. Often times, the fire alarm commissioning process can be particularly trying for contractors, engineers, building owners and local fire officials.

Simplex is taking a step forward to address this critical building construction challenge with the introduction of the Simplex TrueStart (System Technical Analysis and Readiness Testing) instrument – a portable, hand-held tool to help streamline the commissioning process. The Simplex TrueStart instrument enables contractors or technicians to quickly verify that all wiring and peripheral devices are installed correctly and operating properly– even before system wiring is connected to the fire alarm control panel.

Battery-operated and simple to use, the TrueStart instrument uses advanced software technology to scan hundreds of addressable fire alarm system devices and pinpoint potential problems, such as ground faults, shorted wiring, or incorrect or duplicate addressing.

Through its sophisticated diagnostic capabilities for Simplex fire alarm systems, the TrueStart instrument can expedite there solution of problems, keep projects on target for the planned occupancy date and support compliance with the requirements of nationally recognise codes and standards, such as NFPA72 and CAN/ ULC-S537.

Voice-of-the Customer input

In developing the TrueStart instrument, Simplex used input from contractors, engineers, owners and technicians who have experienced the struggles associated with commissioning, particularly in large projects with more complex fire alarm systems. These constituency groups agreed that unexpected problems can make fire alarm system commissioning challenging, time consuming, and more expensive.

The issues encountered during commissioning tend to follow a predictable sequence, with a problem often surfacing during a system check. When an unexpected problem occurs, the project is apt to be thrown off schedule.

The occupancy permit– a highly critical step as the construction process nears completion– may be delayed. This type of scenario can cost the installer precious time and money– and create anxiety for the building owner and AHJ (authority having jurisdiction). It's easy to see why various professionals involved in fire alarm commissioning saw great potential value in a tool that would be capable of diagnosing system problems at an early stage– thereby easing project pressure, allowing more time for pre-testing, and smoothing the overall process.

Well suited for large projects

From a technical standpoint, the TrueStart instrument can save the most time on large-scale projects such as hospitals, office buildings, universities, government institutions, industrial complexes, sports stadiums and commercial facilities. In these installations, the fire alarm system will typically have addressable loops with hundred so initiating and notification devices- each with a specialised function. The TrueStart tool can run a software diagnostic test on those devices that takes just minutes and can flag any problems.

The commissioning process can move more quickly and produce more reliable results,because the TrueStart instrument can troubleshoot all the devices and assist a contractor in breaking down each phase of an alarm system project. As each floor of a project is completed,the system can be tested, validated, and retested if necessary. Ultimately, the entire installation can be completed more efficiently because the installer has confidence that problems can be quickly found and corrected. If fire alarm system testing is the final step in a project, the instrument can help produce a successful commissioning and a timely move of occupants into the facility.

Downloadable information

When a TrueStart diagnostic test is run, the LCD screen sequentially displays vital information as the instrument scans each channel to determine device types and addresses, identify duplicate address settings, and check the status of each device. For example, the TrueStart instrument can quickly determine:

- If manual fire alarm boxes (pull stations) are normal or in alarm
- The analog value of Simplex TrueAlarm smoke sensors
- Whether smoke sensors are out of range or possibly dirty

All the information from the TrueStart instrument can easily be downloaded to a laptop or PC for electronic report generation and archiving.

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