

Ultrasonic Optical Sealing Bolt (UOSB)

The need:

- Enable easier and safer sealing verification of the dry storage casks, first application on Castor and Constor casks in Ignalina (Lithuania) requested by IAEA and Euratom Safeguards
- Replace the standard drilled bolt in use with an anti tampering bolt
- Avoid unnecessary climbing on the top of the cask with the vertical ladder
- Unattended monitoring from headquarters







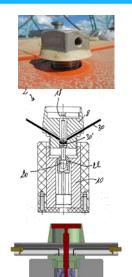
The casks:

- In Ignalina two types of casks are used, the Castor and the Constor
- The Castor has a lid closed by Allen M36 bolts, an UOSB is put instead of an Allen bolt and must have the same mechanical strength
- The Constor has a welded lid, an UOSB is put into a blind threaded M36 hole, and has no particular mechanical strength
- Inserts with collets are put inside both threaded holes



The concept

- Based on the replacement of the standard bolt with an ultrasonic bolt seal
- An optical fiber passing through the seal is connected to an electronic seal
- An insert with a collet is tighten into threaded holes
- When the seal is installed, the seal's integrity is trapped into the collet
- When the bolt seal is removed, the integrity is broken and the fiber is cut
- Cut fiber detected by the electronic or passive seal
- Control of the fiber is done at the ground level, no more use to climb over the cask, except when an alarm is detected



Ultrasonic Optical Seal Bolts

- Two types of UOSB, depending on the detection seal, with connectors for electronic seals and with the fiber passing through for passive seals
- Seals are clamped on the inserts, remote verification done at ground
- Ultrasonic bolt seals are designed to resist harsh environment (radiation, humidity, temperature, ...)













Success Story:

- 2011: Expression of needs & basic idea
- 2012: Preliminary design & in house tests
- 2013: Patent filed; positive results from external Vulnerability Assessment
- 2014: Field tests at Ignalina; authorized for Safeguards use (Category A) by the IAEA
- 2015+: Planned installation on more than 100 casks at Ignalina; joint inspection by Euratom Safeguards & IAEA



The Reading System:

- A light aluminum ultrasonic reading head easily transportable (water is used as couplant), an acquisition hardware & control software integrated in a waterproof rugged suitcase
- Once installed, the ultrasonic seals are controlled only if an alarm is detected on the electronic seals







Contact: Littmann François European Commission • Joint Research Centre ITU / Nuclear Security Unit / SILab Tel. +39 0332 786230 Email: francois.littmann@jrc.ec.europa.eu