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APEX Quick Release Die: Safety Bulletin

In 2018 we introduced the revolutionary Apex Quick Release die. This enabled our semi-automated Autotouch presses to produce pellet samples with unprecedented speed and ease.

Use of the Apex Quick Release die requires careful adherence to the process described in the manual to ensure that the die is not overloaded at any stage in the pressing process. We are aware of several cases in which the APEX die and press have been damaged as a result of the user applying excess load while the APEX tabs are engaged.

There has been reports from customers where mis-operation of the Autotouch press in combination with the APEX die has resulted in the material failure of the die and press components. This occurs when, following interruption to the pressing cycle, the die is not reset before restarting the pressing program on the press. An additional cause of failure has been in cases where an already damaged APEX die has been used.

Although it is clearly stated in the user manual and Quick Start Guide that loads greater than 4 tons should not be applied to the APEX die when the tabs are engaged, the use of the die with an Autotouch press is subject to misuse not in accordance with instructions.

As a result of the extreme loads which can be applied during pressing cycles the damage which can occur is significant and the images to the right illustrate the degree of damage that users of the die have experienced.

Specac presses are designed with safety in mind and all of our presses are fitted with polypropylene safety guards which have been effective at containing any impact of the die failure within the press compartment. Nevertheless, safety is our utmost priority and therefore we wish to stress the following points to any users of the APEX die:



- Carefully read and observe the Quick Start Guide and User Manual before using the APEX Die. Use of the Apex Quick Release die requires careful adherence to the process described in the manual to ensure that the die is not overloaded at any stage in the pressing process to avoid damaging the APEX die and/or press.
- Inspect the APEX die before use and if there is any signs of damage do not use the die.
- If there is any interruption to the pressing cycle, remove the die from the press and fully reset the die before re-starting the pressing cycle.

Our team is on hand to answer any queries you may have.

Thank you for your understanding,

The Specac Team