

## Dust plugs and vinyl bags keep interlocks working in the harshest conditions

**Photo 1:** <http://www.halmapr.com/sfc/DustPlug.jpg>

(Dust Plug on a safety interlock)

**Photo 2:** <http://www.halmapr.com/sfc/VinylBag.jpg>

(Vinyl bag covering an entire valve assembly)

When operating in the most extreme environmental conditions, such as deserts or offshore, keeping valves free from sand and salt can be a thankless task.

To help operators deal with this issue Smith Flow Control has developed a range of dust plugs and vinyl bags to keep interlocks free from the worst of the elements, even in the most hostile environments.

### Dust plugs

Dust plugs are a simple and highly effective way to prevent dust and dirt ingress into key interlocks. Made from high density polyethylene (HDPE) and fitted with a 'soft sealing' aperture gasket, the plug is inserted into the key aperture as soon as one of the coded keys is removed. By creating a tight fit, the plug seals the aperture and will not become dislodged, allowing the operator to complete the assigned task.

### Vinyl bags

A simpler solution, these robust covers envelop the complete interlock unit and protect key aperture points and lock bodies. They are weather- and dust-proof and also have UV protection so they don't deteriorate in the sun. The bags can be fitted to both handwheel- and lever-operated valves and a drawstring allows them to be tightly closed and firmly attached to the interlocked valve.

Both of these products are simple to use and provide a powerful physical barrier, whatever the elements are throwing at valve interlocks, giving operators peace of mind.

### About Smith Flow Control

[Smith Flow Control](#) is a British company specialising in mechanical valve control equipment. This includes procedural control using mechanical valve Interlocks and activity management systems, EasiDrive portable valve actuators, FlexiDrive mechanical valve linkage systems for remote and/or simultaneous valve operation and TorkDrive, torque limiting device for the effective operation of valves.

### Ends

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