ASM Consortium Guidelines

Effective Alarm
Management Practices
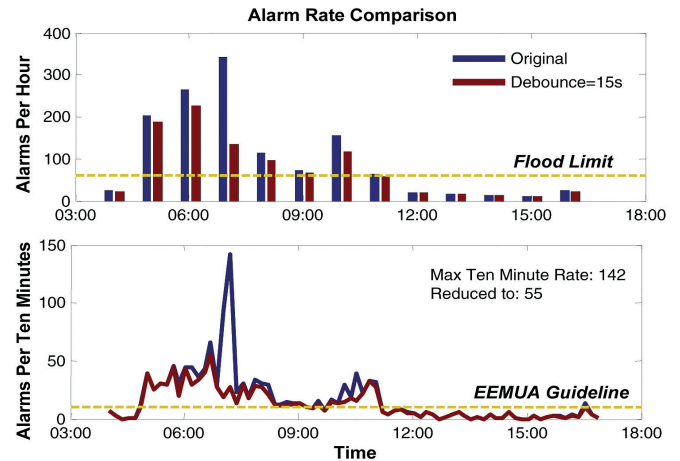
Get the Benefits

An effective alarm management system alerts operators to problems early, informs them of the best corrective action to take, and does not overload operators with excessive alarms during abnormal situations. Developing an effective system starts with having a well defined alarm philosophy. Based on this philosophy you can make the right design and implementation choices. These guidelines contain useful techniques to measure the performance of your alarm system and to make continuous improvements.

Get the Savings

The ASM® Consortium conducted a benchmark study on alarm management performance. The key findings include:

- 70% of the consoles, on average, had overall average alarms rates of more than 1 alarm every 10 minute window;

- Top ten Worst Actor tags often account for over 50% of the alarm rate;

- Alarm bursts (greater than 30 alarms per 10 minute window) occurred at least one time, on average, each month for 38 of the 40 consoles during the evaluation period;

- Significant periods of peak alarm rates exceeding 100 alarms per 10 minute window were experienced at least once by 60% of the consoles.

Sites can reduce their number of excess alarms significantly and sustain this reduction through proper alarm management techniques. The figure in the right column shows alarm rate reductions after applying 15 second debounce timers, an approach discussed in the guidelines.

Alarm Rate Comparison

Get the Information

These guidelines provide guidance for creating effective alarm management systems. The detailed information in these guidelines is most suitable for personnel designing, developing, or maintaining alarm management systems.

- **Management Practices**—establishing management practices to develop and maintain a good alarm management program.

- **Alarm System Design and Implementation**—processes and methods for creating, configuring and implementing an effective alarm management system.

- **Training**—training related guidelines that support effective alarm management.

Get the Guidelines

ASM® Consortium Guidelines for Effective Alarm Management Practices are available to the public. Visit www.asmconsortium.org for information about purchasing.

For further information about the ASM Consortium, please refer to the Consortium Director; send email to HL-ASM-Director@honeywell.com