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GENERAL NOTES

ELECTRONIC INDICATING GROUND ASSEMBLY
AND DEAD MAN CONTROL UNIT

Dry Contact Definition

A dry contact is simply a switch that can be used in an electrical circuit. The name implies that the contact is available with no predetermined voltage or current present when initially connected to a circuit. The voltage and current must come from a separate source. The contact will open and close (switch the circuit on and off) to allow voltage and current pass through it to energize the rest of the circuit.

When a manufacturer classifies a contact as a dry contact it means that the user must supply the power source and comply with the restrictions or ratings of the contact. The contact has a rating of how much voltage and current it can withstand without overloading it. It was tested to be able to close and open repeatedly without incurring damage to its contact structure. Since the contact is what conducts the electrical energy, overloading it could cause permanent damage to its electrical properties. Excessive overloading causes arcing and contact bounce under both opening and closing operations. The ratings are usually given in both a maximum voltage and current. Sometimes the current is determined by the level of the voltage.

The contact is usually referred to as normally open or normally closed. This means that when the relay is dropped out (de-energized) the contact will be open (interrupting conductivity) or closed (allowing conductivity). When the relay is picked-up (energized) the contact will change to its opposite state.

REV/ DESCRIPTION:	DATE	APP'D.
A CHANGED TEXT FONT	11/12/04	RD
GENERAL NOTES		
STS300 G2-25-IG & STS300-G4-25-IG		
DRTM. AD	ENGR. RD	DWG. NO.
DATE	10/14/04	STS 8806
		SHEET#
		1 OF 1