

# InnovOil™

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# Sliding into line blinding



SchuF Group's Cam-Slide technology offers fast and convenient solutions to line blinding issues

**L**INE blinding is a well-established maintenance and safety procedure – both on- and offshore – to avoid cross-contamination and pollution during maintenance. While safety and contamination issues are comparatively easy to handle onshore, the tough conditions of offshore applications pose a big challenge for any line blinding work, which SchuF Group's Cam-Slide aims to tackle.

Offshore applications – such as on oil rigs and FPSO vessels – pose special problems for valves in general, and line blinds in particular. These include issues such as flammable and hazardous media, a corrosive sea air atmosphere, high-pressure applications, offshore safety procedures and often stormy and changeable weather conditions.

Industries working offshore have long been looking for a convenient solution to blind lines in a fast and safe way. The traditional approach – involving the installation of conventional spectacle plates – is still extremely time consuming and carries a high cost, both in terms of personnel and equipment.

For smaller line sizes, for example 1-12 inches, it takes around four hours, while for 14-24 inches it can take eight to nine hours to insert or to remove the spectacle plate, not to mention the multiple personnel and equipment required. The necessary spreading of lines to switch the spectacle position is also a potential hazard – not only to the existing piping but also to the personnel involved.

The most convenient solution so far is the installation of line blinding systems which are permanently flanged or welded into the line and which negate the need for the spreading of lines. In

1975 Fetterolf Corporation – which became a member of the SchuF Group in 2004 – introduced the first bolt-free line-blinding system: the Cam-Set®.

Easily opened by turning a hex nut, the heart of the system – the cam mechanism – allows the built-in spectacle plate to be moved safely into the closed or open position in under a minute, no matter what size of pipeline. The change requires only one person and no tools and is therefore an extremely fast and convenient way of fulfilling the required safety procedures.

The SchuF Group launched its latest line blinding system, the Cam-Slide, in 2012. The new four-bolt design requires less space, owing to its reduced body size, and thus has a lower weight and smaller bolting sizes. The Cam-Slide design also allows for much higher-pressure applications. The sliding action of the square spectacle plate eliminates the space required by a swinging-type line blind.

Functional improvements have also been achieved by introducing a bearing block and limit stop to allow accurate and repeatable positioning of the spectacle plate with a definite stopping point. With less effort being required to switch position, it results in less wear of the sealing parts and in turn reduces maintenance and servicing needs in the future. ■

Contact:

David Donne, Global Sales Director

Tel: +49 6198 571 116

Email: [ddonne@schuf.de](mailto:ddonne@schuf.de)

[www.schuf.com](http://www.schuf.com)