

Industry: Manufacturing

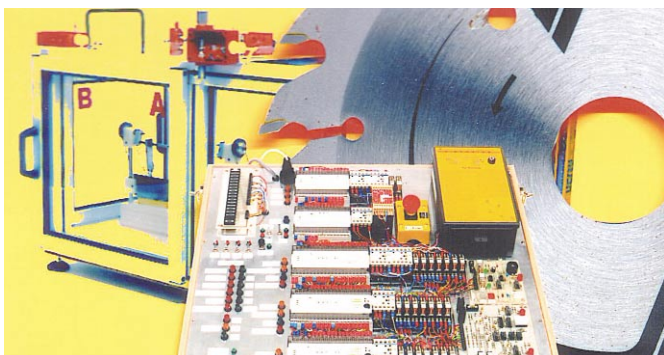
Products Used: FX PLCs

PLC controlled unit demonstrates safe practice

The Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL), an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), has developed a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) controlled demonstrator unit to illustrate the ever increasing role of PLCs in controlling safety functions in modern process systems. The unit was initially for the use of HSE inspectors but is now available to industry in general. It uses five Mitsubishi FX0 PLCs to show different types of PLC controlled systems.

HSL, which is based in Sheffield, offers a half-day presentation using the hands-on, interactive demonstrator unit and a two-day 'introduction to PLC programming' course. The course highlights the safe usage of PLCs in manufacturing and complements Mitsubishi Electric's own PLC training courses.

The FX0 was chosen due its compact size, low cost, high performance and easy to use programming software.



The demonstrator is contained in an aluminium framework that can be transported in an estate car. It has two moving models simulating the motion of a saw blade and a guillotine blade. Different types of interlock and a photo-electric light curtain on a sliding frame are used to guard six points of access to these potentially dangerous motions. The working parts of the interlocks have been exposed to enable a better understanding of their operation.

Application story first released March 1998 by Mitsubishi Electric UK