Chapter 8 Failure Analysis



8.1 Sealing system leakage analysis chart



8.2 Failure analysis and suggestion

8.2.1	I.D. 1	eakage		
Primary causes		Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion
L	Rough shaft surface	Excessive lip wear and traces on the lip circumferential	Shaft surface roughness exceed Ra= 0.2-0.8um and lead to excessive wear.	Finish the shaft to surface roughness to Ra= 0.2-0.8 um °
		direction.		Change the shaft which the surface roughness is acceptable.
	Insufficient lubrication	Excessive lip wear	Improper lubrication can cause accelerated shaft wear	Check lubricant compatibility with lip and quantity of lubricant reaching seal.
p We	Н	Excessive lip wear.	The internal pressure exceed the seal limit.	Use pressure type seal
ear	igh internal pressure			Design a vent in the application to release the pressure.
	Contaminants	Excessive lip wear. Nicks, scratches or	Dust and mud adhere between shaft and lip that causes lip wear, nicks, scratchers or cuts at lip contact area.	Shaft and seal don't contaminated by dust or mud during installation.
		area.		Add a dust lip design in the application.
Lip harden	Insufficient lubrication	Lip harden and has crack.	Lubrication is not enouth that cause dry running.	Supply lubrication oil exceeding the seal level.
	High temperatu re	Lip harden and has crack.	The temperature exceed the rubber heat-resistance limit.	Change the rubber to good heat-resisitance material.
	Higt pr	Contact width is		Use pressure type seal
	1 internal essure	harden and have crack.	seal limit.	Design a vent in the application to release the pressure.

Prin cau	nary Ises	Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion
Eccentric Wear	Seal cocking	Asymmetric contact between lip and shaft.	Seal installation.	Use proper installation tool. Check installation force to insure complete installation.
			Insufficient or improper bore chamfer.	Provide proper amount and lead in angle for chamfer
			Excessive seal interference with rubber O.D. seal.	Check bore I.D. and seal O.D. for proper dimensions.
	Poor alignment	Asymmetric contact between lip and shaft.	Poor initial alignment.	Review design and assembly operations and rovide accurate alignment.
			Seal manufactured with high radial wall variation.	Review production quality data and adjust process.
	In	Lip soften or swelled.	Volume change of material very high.	Refer to elastomer physical data and check fluid.
Softeni	nproper lip material		Reversion.	Check elastomer/fluid compatibility specifications.
ing or swelling			Exposure to solvent used during teardown.	Review teardown procedure and elastomer compatibility specifications.
			Operational contamination of fluid being sealed.	Check for possible exposure to unspecified media coming in contact with seal.
Tears in li	Improper removal	Tears in lip area	Caused during disassembly or removal.	Review teardown and seal removal methods and check tools used.
ip area	High internal pressure		Circumferential tear behind lip.	Look behind lip at base for circumferential tear caused by pressure or fatigue.
Inve	Improper shaft chamfer	Whole or part of lip inversed.	Incorrect chamfer size and angle.	Adjust the chamfer size and angle, and smear lubricant on chamfer when intallation.
rted Lip	Improper installatio n		Lack of proper concentricity assembly.	Adjust the concentricity and smear lubricant on chamfer when intallation.
	High internal pressure		Circumferential tear behind lip.	Look behind lip at base for circumferential tear caused by pressure or fatigue.
Spring fall off	Improper shaft chamfer	Whole or part of spring fall off.	Incorrect chamfer size and angle.	Adjust the chamfer size and angle, and smear lubricant on chamfer when intallation.

	Improper installation		Lack of proper concentricity assembly.	Adjust the concentricity and smear lubricant on chamfer when intallation.
Primary causes		Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion
Lip Damage	Improper shaft chamfer		Incorrect chamfer size and angle.	Adjust the chamfer size and angle, and smear lubricant on chamfer when intallation.
	Improper installation	Lip damage visually.	The chamfer has burrs causing lip damage when installation.	Cut the burrs.
	Improper lip contact		Lip contacts sharp bodies when assembling or transporting.	Prevent contacting seal lip during assembling and transporting.
	Contaminants	Contaminants packed in seal area	Failure of auxiliary lip	Look for cut or damaged auxiliary. Look for auxiliary lip worn excessively.
Seal distort	Imrpoper installation	Seal distorts that change the contact width.	The improper installation tool that cause seal distorts.	Improve the installation tool.
No wear on seal lip	Shaft defect		Shaft surface has defect visually.	Change contact position between shaft and lip.
	Rotating direction		Processed shaft in a lathe had directional when rotating the shaft. (x63) °	Use plunge grinding to change property of direction.
	Off	Offset	Poor alignment of shaft.	Change to the seal that can bear poor alignment.
	set			Make sure the shaft and bore is concentric.

	W		Wrong installation direction.	
	rong installation direction			Turn seal oil side toward to oil.
Prin cau	nary ises	Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion
No wear on seal lip	Shaft wear		Contaminants attached on the seal or shaft when assembling the seal.	Prevent mud and dust contaminate shaft and seal when assembling the seal.
			Lubrication went bad and mixed contaminants.	Avoid overusing the lubricant.
			Contaminants entering the lip that caused wear.	Have a dust lip design.

8.2.2 O.D. leakage				
Primary causes	Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion	
Seal	Seal distort	Improper installation tool causing the seal distort.	Use the proper installation tool.	
distort		When the seal distort on certain location.	Prevent the seal dropping or impacting.	
	Before removing the seal, the seal seal cock can be seen by	Bore dimension is too small to install the seal that causes seal cock.	Use the suitable bore size.	
Cocked		No bore chamfer that causes seal damage during installing.	Chamfer the bore.	
seal	After removing the seal, there is eccentric wear on the lip.	Use the improper installation tool.	Use the proper installation tool.	
Seal is tightly wedge	Bore damaged, seal O.D. rubber extruded or damaged.	Bore I.D. is too small to install the seal that causes seal damaged.	Use the suitable bore size.	

		No bore chamfer that causes seal damage during installing.	Chamfer the bore.
		Installion tool is not parallel with the bore that causes the seal extruded.	Require the installion tool is parallel with the bore.
Primary causes	Failure mode	Causes	Suggestion
No we		Contaminants attach the bore and seal O.D and damaged the bore surface during installing.	Avoid contaminant attaching on the bore and seal during installing.
ear on seal		Assembly bore surface has pits or too rough.	Pay attention to surface roughness.
l lip		Bore chamfer has burrs that cause the bore surface damaged.	Trimming the burrs of the bore chamfer.

Remark: Some materials above are adopted from RMA.