

MAINTENANCE TIPS

Radio Remotes



If you have a radio remote fitted to your pump you may sometimes experience issues with it not working. Understanding the basic principle of how it works will keep you pumping without delays.

The basic way a radio remote works is for a transmitter (also known as a controller) to be held by the operator some distance away from the pump and when a function switch is turned on at the controller it sends a radio signal through the air to a box on the pump known as a receiver, which in turns sends power up a connected cable to the pump and operates the function you have turned on.

There are a few common things that can stop this from happening and with good maintenance these problems can be avoided.

- Make sure that all the E/Stop switches are working and set in the correct position, the hopper switch is working correctly, and the hopper grate is fully shut. Check that the battery for the controller is well charged and the contacts for the battery are clean.
- Make sure the main base control switch has been switched over from base to remote and the power switch on the controller is working correctly and turned on. Then in most systems, the E/Stop circuit needs to be cleared, all these things will stop the remote from working.
- Keep your controller clean. Do not use acid or excess water to clean it as these units contain electronic components that don't like getting wet. Use a damp soft cloth to wipe any wet concrete immediately. Inspect the rubber boots on your joysticks & switches for any sign of damage.
- At the pump end, the receiver must be secure, the plug for the wiring needs to be clean with firm terminals, and the cable needs to be in good condition.
- The antenna is mounted to pick up the radio waves from the controller which must also be clean, secure and the plug from the antenna must be connected to the receiver box. Ensure the receiver has the correct voltage.

These are the basic things needed for good operation of the remote, but there is one problem that nobody has any control over - radio wave interference which will stop a remote working and does happen from time to time. Most NZ remotes use a common frequency of 2.4mhz. Other things that run on this frequency are, garage door remotes, television remotes, and car alarm remotes, all if close enough to the pump controller can cause it to shut down. The most common is working around cell phone towers and even though they are on a different frequency their radio waves are very strong and can affect remotes.

If you have problems and can't see anything causing it, use your cable remote or base control to finish

the job then once you can move to a new location retry your remote, sometimes moving a couple of metres is enough to fix it.

A very important thing to remember, if you are doing any welding on the pump or truck, it pays to unplug the cables at the pump receiver as well as your pump computer because they are electronic units and any welding can damage them, not all pumps are protected by the battery shutoff switch so unplug to be sure.

If you need any more information on remotes, please contact us as we are here to make your life less stressful. CPENZ 06 368 4044.

Our experienced team at CPENZ are here to help. We run detailed training courses at your premise, on your pump tailored to your requirements. These can cover:

- Operating your pump
- Health & Safety when using your pump
- Troubleshooting
- Maintenance
- Servicing.

[CLICK HERE](#) to let us know what type of training you're wanting or contact Kelly on 0276576444 or kelly@cpenz.co.nz for more information.