FAQs

Do compression and fired-on connectors make better connections because they are applied with greater force?

It is not important how much force a connection is put on with, but rather how much force is maintained on a connection. The CPI connectors maintain a constant and consistent 3000 lbs. of force on the connection, due to the spring action of the "C" member. This is greater than compression and fired-on connectors.

Does a fired-on connector clean the wire as it is being applied?

Independent testing has proved this to be a myth. Although, suppose that some of the aluminum oxide and air born contaminants are roughed up and loosened by the application of the connector, where would these contaminants go but into your inhibitor, contaminating it. It is irresponsible for any connector manufacturer to do anything to lesson the importance of cleaning the wire.

A couple people have said they liked the fired-on tap connectors because they believe they are getting the same force applied each time, whereas the shear bolts have a large discrepancy between when the bolt will actually break off.

Gas expands differently at different temperatures. A fired-on connector installed at 90 degrees Fahrenheit will go on with greater force than one fired on at 30 degrees Fahrenheit. CPI shear bolts have been tested to shear at a force plus or minus five inch lbs. every time, thereby giving you a more consistent installation. This is why CPI connectors can be reused and that is not recommended for fired-on connectors.

We use compression connectors throughout our system, so where would a bolted wedge connector fit in?

Many of CPI's customers are compression-oriented utilities. This doesn't preclude applications where disconnectability is a major benefit. Since CPI connectors require no special tools, it is easy for our connector to drop into those applications. (Our connectors are perfect for applications where it may be necessary to remove the connector in the future. There is a cost-benefit to using our connector because of heat cycle issues and cost of tooling).

How easy are CPI connectors to hotstick?

Many of CPI's customers hotstick. One lineman can easily hotstick the connectors using only 2 sticks. For a demonstration check out our video at **www.connectorproducts.com** or request a copy of our installation CD.

If dirt gets in the threads of the screw then I won't get a good connection.

This is a comment brought up by shoot-on users. This argument has been programmed into the AMP sales presentation. The truth is that any dirt on the threads will be wiped off by the female thread as the screw goes into the hole and will on no way effect the performance of the connector.

From what we hear shoot-on shells misfire about 25% of the time. This is an important point to stress if this argument is brought up. Also, shoot-on guns can jam and cause a very dangerous situation if they are dropped in the dirt. The ram on the gun could get dirt in it and cause a bad connection.