



ANOTHER MYTH BUSTED!

“DSI PBL Tool can be cycled indefinitely, True or False?”

Introduction

DSI PBL is often challenged by some to be less desirable in view of limited number of cycles offered in comparison to other circulating tools claiming to have indefinite or unlimited cycles. The fact of the matter is that no one with true understanding of the drilling and completion business would attach much importance to this feature. It is important to recognize that DSI PBL “SSBB Tool”, among other features, does offers an indefinite cycle capability. The SSBB tool was developed and offered to the market so that Operators can enjoy the big bore capabilities these tools offer if they wish to perform wireline fishing / retrieval operations through PBL circulating tool. The indefinite cycle capability is the secondary feature of this tool and not the intended primary purpose of designing the SSBB tool.

Argument

Realistically speaking, with over 2 decades history of PBL tools having been run world-wide by almost every Operating Company at every corner of the world, we have not come across many who have had to cycle PBL tools more than 3 or 4 times during a single run. The only exception to this being our Thru-Tubing Tools deployed to perform hole cleaning while dressing multiple plugs on unconventional completion job and as a matter of course, these tools are always 10-cycle tools. The standard ball-drop PBL tools are capable of 5 full cycles and if the need for more cycles are predicted or desired, tools can be supplied with Extended Ball Catcher Subs enabling PBL tools to perform 10 or even 15 full ball cycles and in the event that our clients prefer to activate our tools by dropping our revolutionary Fast Darts (FD), Split Flow Darts (SFD) or Universal Split Flow Darts (USFD) instead of conventional Activation Balls, the Extended Ball Catcher Subs would empower the Operator to cycle PBL Tools 5 or even 8 full cycles.

Justification / Conclusion

The 10 or 15-cycle tools are offered to provide additional comfort to our customers but in reality, the Operators usually decide to POOH to change out the Bit or replace a component that has reached its operating limits for rotating hours or circulating hours well before they reach the full cycle capabilities of PBL tool, in which case, all they need to do is to break-out the service connection on PBL Tool between the Main Body and the Ball Catcher Sub and remove all the spent Balls and Darts from the Cage before reconnecting the tool and running the string back in hole. All we need to ensure of is that the Operator has been supplied with additional Activation Balls and Darts enabling them to take advantage of full cycle capabilities of PBL tools again as long as the tools are run in accordance with the OEM’s guidelines and within the stipulated operating parameters.

So, the more relevant factors to consider when choosing a circulating tool are, the simplicity of use, robustness and versatility, high degree of reliability and extensive track record of its use world-wide. If, however, the indefinite cycle capability is a prerequisite then DSI PBL is still the one to choose.



DSI PBL “SSBB”
Indefinite Cycle Tool



PBL Extended Ball Catcher
Subs and Cages