Solids-Control Alarms & Trips — What They Mean

Alarm CODES differ by manufacturer — always confirm against the unit's own manual. The CONDITIONS behind them do not. This guide maps the common alarm conditions to their likely causes and the correct first response.

Decanter centrifuge

Alarm condition	Likely cause	First response
High conveyor torque / torque trip	Solids overload: feed too high for the duty, pool set too deep, or bowl packing	Cut feed first; if cake load, set pool shallower; flush before restart
High vibration	Uneven bowl loading, worn bearings, or solids set in the bowl after a dirty shutdown	Stop, flush, inspect — never run through a vibration alarm
Bearing over-temperature	Lubrication failure or bearing wear	Stop and investigate; a hot bearing warns once
Differential / gearbox fault	Conveyor overload or drive problem	Reduce load; inspect drive before reset

Shakers, degasser & pumps

Alarm condition	Likely cause	First response
Shaker motor overload	Flooded deck, mechanical rub, or a failing vibrator motor	Clear the deck; check rotation and mounts before reset
Degasser vacuum loss	Air leak, vent line plugged/flooded, pump or belt failure, wrong level	Pump & belt → vent line → level/float → line-up → leaks (in order)
Centrifugal pump overload / no flow	Cavitation (starved suction), plugged line, or worn impeller	Check suction line-up and pit level before touching the pump
Repeated trips on any unit	The fault is upstream of the machine that trips	Trace the process, not just the motor — trips are symptoms

The golden rule

Log every alarm with the process readings at that moment (feed, speeds, torque, levels). An alarm without a reading attached is gossip; with the reading, it is a diagnosis. Full symptom-to-fix guides: scdrilltech.com/troubleshooting/