Intellitec’s Bi-directional Isolator Relay Delay (BIRD) has worked very well when installed properly. However, there has been some misunderstanding about the proper connection of the coach Battery Disconnect relay and the isolator relay. For the BIRD and the Disconnect relay to operate properly, the isolator relay should be connected to the Battery side of the relay. If the isolator relay is wired to the system side of the disconnect relay, a few “problems” may appear.

The first problem occurs immediately after driving the vehicle. The light on the Battery Disconnect Panel will remain illuminated for a short period of time, regardless of the state of the disconnect relay. This may give the impression that the Battery Disconnect system is not working properly. In reality, this is due to the isolator relay remaining engaged due to the high battery voltage from being charged.

Another problem that may occur is the lack of charging of the batteries while driving. This will occur when the Battery Disconnect, either the Chassis or Coach, is turned off before the vehicle is started. After the engine is running, the BIRD will energize the isolator relay and try to charge the battery but will not be able to due to the open disconnect relay.

These problems, although not serious, can be very frustrating to a customer. All of these problems can be avoided if the isolator relay is wired on the Battery side of the disconnect relay. The following diagram illustrates the proper method of wiring the BIRD into the coach.