News Release

GAMA-*An Association of Appliance & Equipment Manufacturers*
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GAMA Issues Reminder on Importance of Proper Gas Appliance Installation Practices

Arlington, Virginia, April 27, 2004—GAMA, the national trade association representing manufacturers of appliances, components and related products used in space conditioning, water heating, commercial food service and power generation, today addressed an issue regarding the installation of gas appliances to ensure their safety and proper operation. Questions about sediment traps at model code development meetings and reports from the field have indicated a need to review some basic installation practices for gas appliances that relate to minimizing the possibility of the controls becoming contaminated by foreign material. These questions also have indicated a lack of understanding about the purpose and benefit of a sediment trap. There are a variety of circumstances by which contaminants can be introduced into the house gas piping system. These circumstances range from the threading of the pipe to unexpected chemical reactions on the interior of the piping occurring sometime after the system is in use. Regardless of their origin, if contaminants do get into a gas control they can cause significant problems. As an example, if some contaminating particles are deposited on a valve seat they may prevent the valve from fully closing and a gas leak may occur. A properly constructed sediment trap is a simple, inexpensive device that diverts and collects contaminants in the gas stream, thus keeping them out of the gas control.

GAMA is taking this opportunity to provide a reminder on the following installation practices. Good installation practices include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Keep gas appliances in their shipping cartons until they are ready to be installed.
- Install a sediment trap as close as possible to the inlet of the appliance at the time of installation. This is required by all furnace and water heater manufacturers as well as the National Fuel Gas Code (see section 8.5.7 of NFPA 54/ANS Z223.1). The trap shall be constructed to change the direction of the gas flow by 90 degrees.
- Install a manual shut-off valve within 6 feet of the appliance. This is specified in section 8.5.4 of NFPA 54/ANS Z223.1.

- Keep the supply piping clean. It should be free of foreign material, oil, water or other contaminants. The best practice is to connect the gas piping immediately upon installation to prevent foreign material from entering the gas control. If gas piping is not connected immediately, make sure that a plastic protective plug is installed in the inlet of the gas control. Precautions should be made to insure that no dirt, oil, water or other contamination enters the inlet of the gas control before it is connected to the supply piping. If you suspect that water or other contamination has entered the gas control, the control must be replaced prior to installing the appliance.

  Provision 8.5.7 is an excerpt from the National Fuel Gas Code NFPA 54/Z223

8.5.7 Sediment Trap. Where a sediment trap is not incorporated as a part of the gas utilization equipment, a sediment trap shall be installed as close to the inlet of the equipment as practicable at the time of equipment installation. The sediment trap shall be either a tee fitting with a capped nipple in the bottom outlet as illustrated in Figure 8.5.7 or other device recognized as an effective sediment trap. Illuminating appliances, ranges, clothes dryers, decorative appliances for installation in vented fireplaces, gas fireplaces, and outdoor grills shall not be required to be so equipped.

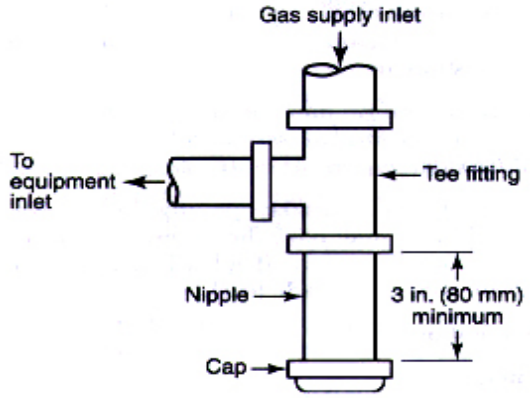

FIGURE 8.5.7 Method of Installing a Tee Fitting Sediment Trap.

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