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Dear All,

Welcome to our Client Update for Spring 2005.

It feels like quite some time since I last got the chance to put one of our Updates together (Autumn 2004). There are a number of reasons for this including, most notably, pressure of work and a consequent lack of time. As a result, there is a back log of information that should be considered and, at last, we now have the opportunity to do just that.

1. FLASHBACK ARRESTORS FOR HYDROGEN SERVICE.

Please note the following changes to the pressure ratings for flashback arrestors in hydrogen service:

MAXIMUM AVAILABLE SERVICE PRESSURE = 9 barG.

As a result of recent testing carried out by one of the world leaders in this field, the maximum available pressure rating for hydrogen service has been dropped from 10 barG to 9 barG. This change affects the [all] stainless steel flashback arrestors.

Similar testing has resulted in the BRASS bodied (automatic and resettable) flashback arrestors having their hydrogen pressure ratings REDUCED from 5 barG to 3 barG.

Concerns with brass-bodied flashback arrestors have stemmed from evidence that if a flame should stabilise within the arrestor then differential expansion (of the dissimilar metals of construction) could occur. With the possibility of this leading, in turn, to loss of containment and a flame excursion to the upstream side of the flashack arrestor.

BJ Industries Ltd (Gas Safety UK - Division) Products that will be affected by this change:

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	STATUS FOR H2
99-124	HYDROGEN FBA	£107.00	WITHDRAWN
99-121	FBA RESETTABLE FUEL GASES	£58.50	RE-RATED 3 BAR
99-123	FBA NON-RESET' FUEL GASES	£26.25	RE-RATED 3 BAR
99-132	AUTO' FBA SUPER 55 FUEL GASES	£52.10	RATED 3 BAR

THE 9 barG RATED, HYDROGEN [ALL STAINLESS STEEL] FLASHBACK ARRESTOR IS, OF COURSE, ALSO AVAILABLE FROM BJ INDUSTRIES - DETAILS & PRICING ON REQUEST. AT THE TIME OF WRITING, IT SEEMS THAT THE RATING ON THESE MAY BE REDUCED TO 6 BAR FOR HYDROGEN SERVICE.

N.B.

Only HYDROGEN service is affected by these changes. Other 'fuel' gases (methane, acetylene, propane, etc.) are NOT affected.

These revisions will only affect equipment supplied after 01.04.05. Equipment that has been supplied before this date, has been supplied in 'good faith' and, most importantly of all, replacement is NOT required; flashbacks are not only rare but the probability of a stabilised flashback is rarer still. Hence, these changes will only affect new installations and applications.

The scheduled replacement of flashback arrestors that are currently in service for hydrogen duty when they fall due (5 years from date of manufacture), will, eventually, remove those which are [by current standards] over-rated.

If you have any questions or concerns on this matter then please get in touch.

OTHER NEWS

1. We are delighted to announce that we have a new member of our team - from February 2005, Andrea Bayliss has joined Gas Safety UK.

Based at BJ Industries Ltd., Andrea is already providing sales and admin' back-up for Gas Safety UK customers and clients, processing orders for gas control equipment and keeping an eye on me too! As always, you can contact us on the main office telephone number: 01909 501771.

2. Smart-Hose (TM)

'The World's Safest Hose Assembly' - Since adding this product to our portfolio last year, Smart-Hoses have been installed in many locations and have proved to be very reliable.

The Smart-Hose represents the next logical step onwards from the old high pressure hoses used on cylinder manifolds. Traditionally, such hoses, have an anti-whip cable attached to the side which, in the event of hose failure, prevents 'whipping' and consequent injuries. Smart-Hose has the cable running down the annulus of the hose and this cable is, in turn, connected to a valve at both ends of the hose. Hence, if a hose of this type were to fail it will not only have the anti-whip advantage but it will also isolate itself in the process; there will be only minimal discharge of high pressure gas from the supply (i.e. the cylinder) or from upstream (i.e. the manifold).

This, unique and patented technology, means that the potential dangers associated with pigtails on cylinder manifolds are CONTROLLED AT SOURCE.

To see how the Smart-Hose works have a look at 'New Products' on our web-site: www.gas-safety.uk.com

Example and guide price:

PART NUMBER: 99-054. SMART-HOSE, 1 METRE C/W END-FITTINGS: £84.21 + VAT

3. TRAINING.

Following a thorough review, we have decided that there will be NO price increases associated with our cylinder or cryogenic safety training courses during 2005. Whilst costs continue to rise (fixed overheads, insurance, fuel, etc.), we understand the current economic difficulties faced by many organisations and, consequently, our pricing on training will be maintained until 2006.

4. GAS CONTROL & SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Due to the continued rise in raw material costs and shortage surcharges, we have, reluctantly been forced into the application of a +5% price increase across the range. Although we have absorbed losses during 2003 and 2004 this pattern, quite obviously, could not be sustained; hence this change.

We still maintain that we can offer a high quality and cost-effective solution. For example, two-stage regulators for carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, oxygen, etc. are currently: £89.00 + VAT each and the two-stage regulators for helium and hydrogen are: £101.00 + VAT each.

If, at any stage, you are unsure about any aspect of gas safety - please ask.
You can contact us for safety information or advice without obligation.

GAS SAFETY UK

- CYLINDER & CRYOGENIC GAS SAFETY TRAINING**
- INSTALLATION & TESTING OF GAS CYLINDER MANIFOLDS & PIPELINES**
- SUPPLY OF GAS REGULATORS & ASSOCIATED GAS HANDLING EQUIPMENT**

GAS SAFETY UK - PROVIDING INDEPENDENT & COST-EFFECTIVE SAFETY SOLUTIONS FOR USERS OF COMPRESSED (CYLINDER) GASES AND CRYOGENIC LIQUID GASES.

Best regards, David Bayliss

(Technical Manager, Gas Safety UK; Safety & Training Engineer; Partner I.G.S.)

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