METAL-FAB INC.

MANUFACTURER OF PRODUCTS
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

February 23, 2024

Eric Kaiser
Ekaiser@trutechtools.com

Dear Eric:

Metal-Fab Inc. understands the need for testing of combustion gas and draft pressure on gas burning appliances by qualified technicians. Metal-Fab Inc. also understands that the testing procedure would require the penetration of the inner sleeve of the B-Vent pipe to insert the probe of the testing equipment into the flue gas area.

Under the terms of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Listing, Metal-Fab Inc. does not recommend this practice with Type B gas vent. However, where it is acceptable by the local code authority Metal-Fab has no objection to a qualified person resealing the penetration, as long as the following conditions are met:

1. The hole in the inner sleeve is no bigger than necessary to insert the probe. After testing, apply a high temperature non-hardening sealant to plug the hole.

2. The hole in the outer sleeve can be slightly larger than the hole in the inner sleeve to accommodate the application of the inner sleeve sealant. The outer sleeve should be sealed with a combination of high temperature non-hardening sealant applied to seal the hole and then a patch of aluminum tape applied over the sealant.

3. If the test probe is permanent, secure the test probe and seal around the probe with high temperature non-hardening sealant.

Sincerely,

Todd Bridge

Todd Bridge
Chief Design Engineer

cc: Mark Blissett

TO: Eric Kaiser

DATE: February 23, 2024

EMAIL: ekaiser@trutechtools.com

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FROM: Karen Ogg
Technical Services Team Manager

PHONE: 616-656-8383

SUBJECT: Test holes in Type B gas vent

Eric,

We concur with your observations that to verify gas fired appliances are operating as designed and engineered, testing of the flue gases may need to be done. Also, we agree that to accomplish this may require penetration of the Type B gas vent walls for test ports near the outlet of the appliance – in the equipment room.

You have asked for our comments (as manufacturers of Type B gas vent) regarding this breach of the inner liner, for testing purposes, along with any necessary actions to take after tests are completed.

Our installation instructions clearly state that penetration of the inside wall of our Type B gas vent needs to be avoided. We stand by that policy statement – as a rule. On the other hand, we do understand the importance of testing for combustion and draft by qualified technicians. We recognize this can require test ports being drilled for insertion of small test probes through the outer and inner liners of double wall (B vent) pipe.

For liability purposes and under the terms of our Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) Listing (safety certification) we cannot / do not formally recommend or condone this practice with our Type B gas vent. However, where it is acceptable to the local code authority, we have no objection to a qualified person doing so if the following conditions are met. The holes are small (just large enough to accommodate the small probes), are prepared carefully (without damaging the walls of the B vent), and the holes are closed off afterward.

Others have suggested that if the inner wall is penetrated, the opening should be sealed, by applying high temperature, non-hardening sealant. It has also been suggested that the hole in the outer liner can be sealed with the same type of sealant, then also covered with aluminum tape. We have no objections to such actions.

With holes prepared carefully for testing, then closed off upon completion, we are of the opinion the performance / effectiveness of the product would not be compromised.

Sincerely,
Karen Ogg

Technical Services Team Manager

DuraVent SELKIRK AMERIVENT HART COOLEY