

TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN

FLOOD DAMAGED PRODUCT

To prevent serious accident and injuries to persons, it has long been the policy and practice of The Harris Products Group to recommend that gas apparatus equipment that has been exposed to waterborne chemicals, or other contaminants present in flood waters, be replaced. The potential personal safety risks to operators and the resulting legal liability associated with the reuse of a contaminated gas apparatus product far outweighs the very limited savings that might result from a standard repair or even total reconditioning.

It is difficult or impossible to evaluate all the potential risks associated with reusing flood contaminated equipment but here are a few:

REGULATORS:

- Heat of recompression fires in contaminated oxygen regulators
 - High pressure safety device failure due to debris contamination
 - Pressure gauge explosion as a result of internal gauge failure due to contamination
 - Damage to personnel or downstream equipment as a result of regulator performance failure due to contamination
- Remember that regulators, or other high pressure devices, can fail in days, weeks and even months after exposure – even after repair if it is not done properly and thoroughly due to internal part corrosion or inadequate repairs.

TORCHES:

- Flashback, backfires and sustained backfires as a result of flood contaminants
- Flashback arrestors, if exposed to flood waters, can become damaged and clogged irreversibly. Rather than being safety devices they could become hazards themselves.
- Oxy-fuel torches and related equipment, unless completely disassembled, including un-brazing of some parts, and thoroughly cleaned and degreased, could result in failure due to contamination

MANIFOLDS:

- Downstream gas contamination in pipelines and or process equipment
- Heat of recompression fires in contaminated oxygen pipelines/systems
- Pipeline protection failure potentially resulting in injury or extreme harm to personnel

Harris will continue to reinforce our policy of recommending replacement of equipment in these cases where there is a question of contamination of any type. For additional information regarding flood damaged products, please contact your Harris Sales Representative.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
10.03.2022

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Turn to the
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