

SAFETY ALERT

22 August 2008

REMINDER ON DISCONTINUED ELECTRONIC IGNITION SYSTEMS

ESV wishes to remind the gasfitting trades that the electronic ignition systems Model C664/71,72,73,81 or 83 and the associated gas valve power monitor VM001 produced by Technical Components Pty Ltd and used on gas burner safety controls are no longer available.

These controls were commonly used on hot water heaters of both the Type A and Type B appliance categories.

Type A appliances in this category are those that have a thermal capacity of no more than 500 MJ/h and have been certified by AGA. They are typically used for such applications as central heating boilers or pool heaters.

To replace a failed unit on a Type A appliance, ESV is advised that for Raypak hot water heaters, Rheem Australia have replacement controls that can be used which will not affect the certification of the appliance. Other manufacturers can similarly be contacted for assistance and information

When servicing the larger Type B appliance (greater than 500 MJ/h and not AGA certified) the replacement of these components is deemed as a modification. It is a requirement that a submission be made to ESV before work starts.

If emergency repairs are required, for example in a nursing home or similar institution, a Gas Fitting notice for the work must be lodged immediately, and a formal submission as required under the section 73 of Gas Safety Act 1997 lodged within 48 hours. .

The use of the Technical Components C664 without the VM001 gas valve monitoring unit combination has been banned for some years and should be replaced whenever it is found in the field.

The safety issue with the use of this combination of controls is failure due to high current draw on the contacts that provide power to the safety shut off valves directly connected to the C664 flame safeguard.

This mode of failure has resulted in the permanent welding of the contacts (see photos) and has resulted in the unsafe energisation of the main gas safety shut off valves. Gas is then allowed to flow into the combustion chamber in the event of a flame failure, or the burner cannot be turned off.

This can result in the destruction of the heater, and in other cases an explosion may occur when the heat is turned on. .

If called to service or repair such a system on any Rheem (Raypak), Teledyne Laars or other brand of hot water heater, the repairer must advise the owner of the equipment that an upgrade is required because of the potential danger.

Under Regulation 22 of the Gas Safety (Gas Installation) Regulations 1999, a person carrying out gas fitting work on an appliance that has a defect which may cause the appliance to become unsafe must notify the owner of the defect and take action as appropriate.

For further information contact ESV'S Gas technical information hotline **1800 652 563**

See next page for photographs

