

FUELS SAFETY DIVISION

March 1998
NG 98/4 PR 98/3

ADVISORY

ENERGY ACT

NATURAL GAS UTILIZATION CODE ONTARIO PROPANE CODE

CRACKS IN FURNACE FRONT VESTIBULE PLATES

Numbers of heat exchanges and front vestibule plates have been replaced due to minor cracks in front vestibule plates.

The welds attaching heat exchangers to the front vestibule plates are integral to the heat exchangers. Defects in heat exchangers are addressed in the Ontario Gas Utilization Code, and the Ontario Propane Code, and shall be treated accordingly.

This is to clarify that the front vestibule plate, even when it is welded to the heat exchanger, is not considered to be a part of the heat exchanger. As such, a crack in the front vestibule plate shall not be considered to be a defect in the heat exchanger. Instead, cracks in front vestibule plates shall be addressed as follows:

When a crack exists in the front vestibule plate and it causes flame distortion or interferes with the venting of the products of combustion, the front vestibule plate must be replaced or repaired. All repairs must be made using the repair method specified by the manufacturer of the furnace.

A crack in the front vestibule plate does not have to be repaired if it does not cause flame distortion or does not interfere with venting of combustion products.

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