Valve Safety Warning

To ensure the safety of our customers, Marshall Excelsior Co. would like to provide you with information regarding the hazards associated with using aging LP-Gas valves and regulators. It is hoped that this bulletin will make clear to LP-Gas dealer managers and service personnel that to avoid serious injury or property damage, careful attention and intense care must be used while installing, inspecting, and maintaining these products.

According to the National Fire Protection Association Pamphlet 58 ("Storage and Handling Liquefied Petroleum Gases"), "In the interests of safety, all persons employed in handling LP-Gases shall be trained in proper handling and operating procedures." This bulletin can be used in the training of new employees as well as reminding experienced employees of hazards that can occur.

It would be a good idea to furnish all employees with a copy of NLPGA Safety Pamphlet 306-79, "LP-Gas Regulator and Valve inspection and Maintenance."

Nature of Warnings

Although warnings should regularly be as brief as possible, factors involved in filler valve and filling valve failures are very complex. These factors need to be fully understood so that proper procedures and maintenance can be implemented to prevent accidents. In its stripped-down form, the simplest possible warning would be:

Loosen filler valve from filling valve very slowly. If there is a leak, know the procedure(s) to follow.

This bulletin will not cover all safety procedures regarding the installation, operation, and maintenance of LP-Gas systems, and regarding filler valves.

Hose-End Filling Valves with Acme Connectors

When reeling the hose, never let the hose-end valve be dragged over the ground or dropped/banged into the truck.

If dragged, hose-end valves could open accidentally or be damaged. Dragging will cause accelerated/abnormal wear and eventual valve failure, and foreign material will become lodged in the connector, causing failure of the filler valve.

Follow this procedure on every filling application in order to prevent hazardous conditions:

- Wear gloves and eye protection at all times.
- Check hose-end valve and filler valve for foreign materials and, if present, remove with extreme care. If foreign material cannot be safely removed, do not proceed with filling and replace valve.
- Make sure the Acme connector easily spins on by hand.
- If a leak is detected when filling is started, immediately stop the operation and follow procedures to correct the leaking condition.
- After filling, bleed the gas trapped between the filler valve and the hose-end valve by (a) using the vent on the hose-end valve or (b) slightly loosening coupling nut to vent the gas before disconnecting.
  If the gas does not stop venting, then there is a leak in the filler valve or hose-end valve. Do not disconnect filling connector. Follow your company procedure for handling this hazardous situation.
  Make sure your company has such a procedure.

Inspection of Filling Valves with Handwheel

- All valves should be inspected at least once a month to ensure that the handle is tight and not damaged, the stem is not bent and that there is no "play" in the threads in the bonnet. "Play" will normally not be noticed if the valve is under pressure.
- The seating area should be smooth and clean, and the Acme threads should be checked for wear, dents, or nicks.

Inspection of Quick Acting Filling Valves

- Inspect valves daily to ensure locking mechanism is working properly.
- The seating area should be smooth and clean, and the Acme threads should be checked for wear, dents, or nicks.
- Check the retaining ring on the filler connection to ensure that it is properly holding the female Acme nut or handle so that it protects surface that seats on the filler valve.
- Immediately replace or repair valves if any problems are evident.

Larger Filler and Filling Valves

When dealing with 2-1/4" and 3-1/4" Acme valve connections, only use the special wrenches designed for the purpose.

DO NOT use hammers or pipe wrenches to tighten the connections. All previous warnings about smaller valves also apply to larger valves.

General Warning

Marshall Excelsior products are mechanical devices that are subject to wear, contaminants, corrosion, and aging components made of materials such as rubber and metal, and these devices will eventually become inoperative. The safe service life of these products will reflect the environment and conditions of use that they are subjected to. Regular inspection and maintenance is essential. Marshall Excelsior products have a long record of quality and service, so LP-Gas dealers may forget hazards that can arise from using aging devices that have outlived their safe service life. The length of a device's life reflects the environment in which it is used, and the LP-Gas dealer knows better than anyone what this environment is.

There are developing trends in state legislation and proposed national legislation making the owner of products responsible for replacing products before they outlive their safe service life. LP-Gas dealers should be aware of such legislation as it affects them.

Marshall Excelsior MEC Gas Connections

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