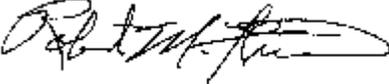


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PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P03-27

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SUBJECT: Spaced-Plate Intake Flame Arrestor Used on Atlas Copco Wagner
Diesel Engine Power Packages

Who needs this information?

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, coal and metal/nonmetal mine operators, miners' representatives, and repair shops need this information.

Why is MSHA issuing this bulletin?

MSHA is issuing this bulletin to inform the mining industry that machines equipped with the spaced-plate flame arrestor, Atlas Copco Wagner Part Numbers 533870, 535814, and 556053 (flame arrestor assemblies), and Part Number 531739 (flame arrestor element), should not be used in areas of underground mines where permissible equipment is required.

Specifically, the thicknesses of the plates and flange materials are inadequate, flame paths are inadequate, the spacing between two pairs of bolts is too broad, and there are holes that penetrate into the interior of the explosion-proof enclosure. These specifications are not in accordance with Title 30 Code of

Federal Regulations (30 CFR) standards with respect to permissibility. Machines using the above-referenced flame arrestor assemblies and flame arrestor element

may still be used in non-permissible areas of underground coal and metal/nonmetal mines.

What is the background for this notification?

During inspection of a machine with a spaced-plate intake flame arrester for a field modification application, MSHA reviewed the specifications of the Atlas Copco Wagner spaced-plate flame arrester from drawings on file at the Approval and Certification Center and noted the following discrepancies:

1. The thickness of flame arrester plates does not comply with 30 CFR 36.23 (b) (2).
2. There are three flame paths located between the sides and bottom of the flame arrester assembly and the outer housing assembly in the Atlas Copco Wagner spaced-plate intake flame arrester that do not comply with 30 CFR 36.23 (b) (2).
3. The flame arrester housing does not comply with the specifications of 30 CFR 18.31 and 18.32.

What machines are affected by these discrepancies?

The following Atlas Copco Wagner machine models manufactured during the late 1960's through the late 1970's **MAY** have the spaced-plate flame arrester installed:

HST-1	UT-45A
HST-5	ST-5A
HMTT-410	ST-5D
ST-2B	MTT-F20-18
ST-2D	MTT-F20-19
ST-10A	

Not every machine within each model group had the spaced-plate flame arrester installed. Some machines within each model group were assembled with a circular crimped-ribbon type flame arrester. No problems have been found with the circular crimped-ribbon flame arrester.

A machine is considered to be out of compliance if it is being used in a permissible area and it is using the Atlas Copco Wagner spaced-plate intake flame arrester.

What steps should be taken?

Technical Support (TS) has worked with one machine owner to develop interim fixes to apply to the spaced-plate flame arrestor. Since parts are no longer available from Atlas Copco Wagner for the spaced-plate flame arrestor, the permanent fix is replacement with another type flame arrestor approved for use on the machine if the operator wishes to use the machine in permissible areas. If the operator wishes to use the machine in non-permissible areas, no action is necessary.

TS should be contacted for assistance in developing an interim fix, or to verify which other types of flame arrestors are suitable.

Whom can I contact at Atlas Copco Wagner?

For more information, please contact:

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Is this information bulletin available on the internet?

This Program Information Bulletin may be viewed on the World Wide Web by accessing the MSHA's home page (www.msha.gov) and then choosing Rules & Regs/Compliance Assistance Information/Program Information Bulletins.

What is the authority for this bulletin?

The authority for this bulletin is 30 CFR, Parts 36 Subpart B and 18 Subpart B.

Who will receive this bulletin?

MSHA Enforcement Personnel
Program Policy Manual Holders
Miners' Representatives
Underground Mine Operators
Repair Shop Facilities