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WARNING: IMPORTANT PRODUCT SAFETY NOTICE

BULLETIN #2020-49K

Date: February 18, 2021

To: All Kidde Fire Systems' Pre-Engineered Distributors

From: Product Safety Officer

Subject: Safety Bulletin – Vent Plug, WHDR™ Wet Chemical Fire Suppression Systems

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE – ACTION REQUIRED
Please instruct your Sales, Design, Purchasing, Installation and Service personnel to read the below carefully and take action as required.

This safety bulletin requires the inspection of Kidde Fire Systems' Vent Plugs, P/N 60-9196984-000, used in Kidde Fire Systems WHDR™ Wet Chemical Fire Suppression systems for an assembly issue (see below Issue Description) which if exists may render the system ineffective in a fire event creating a potential for personal injury or property damage. Action may be required on your part. Please read the following carefully and note Required Field Actions.

Issue Description

A Vent Plug, P/N 60-9196984-000, is required in each wet chemical fire suppression system pipe network, which also includes one or more agent discharge nozzles. These nozzles utilize a foil seal to prevent ingress of contaminants under normal cooking operations, but which ruptures under pressure upon system discharge.

The Vent Plug is installed in the pipe network to bleed off small pressure increases caused by typical temperature rises in a commercial kitchen environment, which prevents the nozzle foil seals from rupturing under normal operating conditions. The Vent Plug incorporates a ball check that allows these smaller pressure increases to bleed off, but which seals the Vent Plug outlet under the higher pressure encountered during system discharge (see Fig 1).

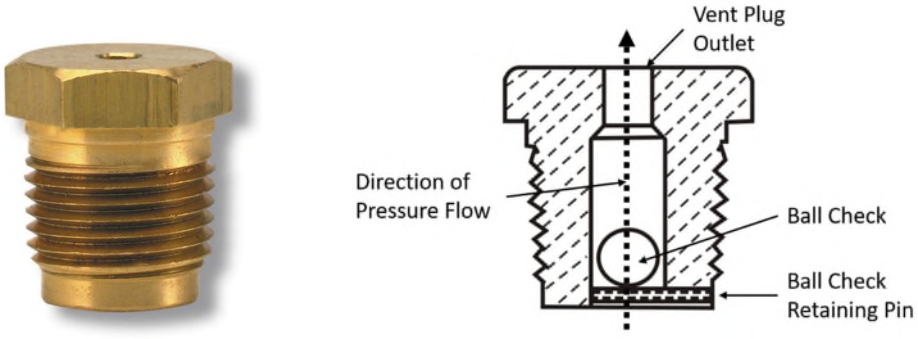

Figure. 1. Vent Plug & Cut-Away View

Kidde Fire Systems has discovered one instance from a July 2019 lot where a Vent Plug was shipped without the ball check and retaining pin installed (see Figures 2 and 3 for comparison of correct and incorrect Vent Plug assembly).

Figure. 2. Correct Vent Plug w/ Ball Check & Retaining Pin

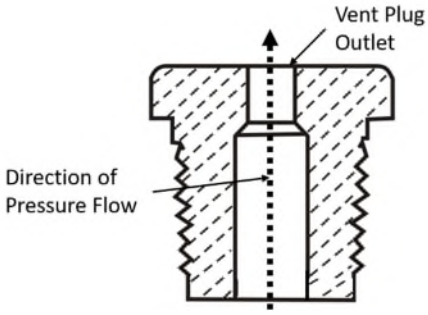

Figure. 3. Incorrect Vent Plug w/o Ball Check & Retaining Pin

Without the ball check and retaining pin installed (as shown in the cross-sectional view in Figure 3), a portion of the wet chemical agent may discharge through the Vent Plug instead of the nozzles, potentially rendering the system ineffective in a fire event.

Affected Units & Date Range

Although Kidde Fire Systems is aware of one instance of this issue, further action is required to determine whether any additional Vent Plugs, P/N 60-9196984-000, were shipped prior to the implementation of enhanced quality controls to prevent occurrence (see Solution Being Implemented). Therefore, this notification is provided so that any existing inventory of P/N 60-9196984-000, regardless of date of manufacture, is inspected and all installed Vent Plugs are properly inspected during required routine maintenance. Any Vent Plugs that are missing the ball check or retaining pin shall be considered affected products.

Solution Being Implemented

Kidde Fire Systems has immediately implemented additional quality controls in our production and packaging process to help prevent future occurrences. For product which has previously been shipped, field actions will include the following:

- Inspection of all Vent Plugs in your existing inventory and replacement of affected products as needed, and
- Implementation of updated Vent Plug inspection and maintenance procedure to ensure proper function of Vent Plug at all standard maintenance cycles and in future system installations

Detailed field actions are provided below.

Required Field Actions

1. Completely read this document and all attachments.

2. Review the updated Vent Plug Inspection & Maintenance Procedure provided in Appendix A of this bulletin. This updated procedure is required during ALL new system installations, at regularly scheduled system maintenance for ALL current and future systems, and after ANY system discharge. This procedure must be shared with all installation & service personnel.

3. Complete the Bulletin Receipt Acknowledgement Form (RAF) attached, including acknowledgement of the updated Vent Plug Inspection and Maintenance Procedure requirements, and return to Kidde Technical Services at kidde_techsupport@carrier.com within two weeks of the date of the Bulletin. We will follow up to ensure receipt of this bulletin and your acknowledgement starting 30 days from the date of the bulletin.

Attachment → RAF - KFS Safety Bulletin 2020-49K - \

4. Inspect your entire inventory of Vent Plug P/N 60-9196984-000 for presence of the ball check and retaining pin. DO NOT use affected products. To receive product replacement or credit for affected products, please return the affected products to Kidde Fire Systems using the standard RMA process and citing Bulletin 2020-49K as the reason.

5. For existing installations, physically inspect the Vent Plug and replace affected products as needed, using processes described in the WHDR Wet Chemical Suppression System Design, Installation, Operation and Maintenance (DIOM) manual and Appendix A to this bulletin. Please contact Technical Support at (866) 287-2531 or via email at kidde_techsupport@carrier.com if you have any questions regarding the process. DO NOT re-use affected products. Return affected product for replacement or credit as noted in Step 4. Because the inspection is being performed during regularly scheduled service visits, no labor credit will be provided.

Questions or Concerns

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Technical Support at (866) 287-2531 or kidde_techsupport@carrier.com.

Appendix-A

Vent Plug (P/N 60-9196984-001) Inspection and Maintenance Procedure

The following Vent Plug inspection & maintenance procedures are required at **ALL** system installations, periodic maintenance intervals and after **ANY** system discharge of Kidde Fire Systems' WHDR™ Wet Chemical Fire Suppression Systems for cooking applications. Any service personnel conducting system maintenance must keep a copy of this procedure with the system DIOM manual. Periodic system maintenance **MUST** be conducted at least every 6 months, or more frequently depending on the application requirements, and in accordance with NFPA 17A and NFPA 96. For NEW system installations, proceed to Step 6.

1. Read the "Safety Summary" and "Maintenance" sections from the most current revisions of the applicable system DIOM manuals PRIOR to performing any service work on the suppression system.
2. Follow the instructions in the applicable system DIOM manuals for preparation of system maintenance to ensure the system is properly disarmed.

WARNING **Failure to properly disarm the system risks accidental discharge which could result in personal injury, property damage or death.**

NOTE: Perform this maintenance procedure **PRIOR** to blowing out system piping with dry air or nitrogen.

3. Remove the Vent Plug from the distribution system pipe tee by unthreading it counterclockwise.
4. Clean the Vent Plug with warm, soapy water and rinse with clean water.
5. Blow out the Vent Plug with dry air or nitrogen and ensure the unit is completely dry.
6. Inspect the Vent Plug for proper operation by turning it over and back, ensuring that the ball check moves freely within the unit (see Fig 1). If the ball check does not move freely, discard the Vent Plug (or set aside for return to Kidde Fire Systems, if new). If the ball check is missing (see Fig 2 and Fig 3), set aside the Vent Plug for return.

Fig 1. Checking Vent Plug for Ball Check Movement

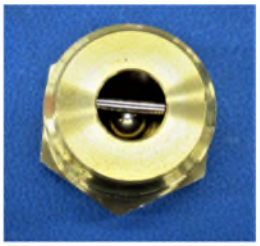
Fig 2. Vent Plug with Ball Check & Retaining Pin

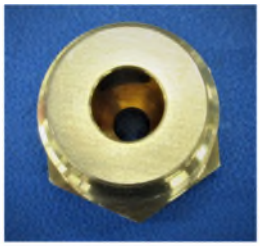
Fig 3. Vent Plug - Missing Ball Check & Retaining Pin

7. Follow the system DIOM manual procedures for blowing out the system pipe network with dry air or nitrogen.
8. After verifying proper operation, install the Vent Plug (new or existing, as applicable per step 6) by threading clockwise into the pipe tee. Ensure the vent plug is installed in the proper orientation, in accordance with the applicable system DIOM manual.

WARNING **Failure to install the Vent Plug will result in a portion of the wet chemical agent discharging through the pipe tee instead of the nozzles, potentially rendering the system ineffective in a fire event which could result in personal injury, property damage or death.**

9. Complete the installation or regularly scheduled maintenance procedures as applicable and return the system to service in accordance with the applicable system DIOM manuals.