

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

1998 APR 30 P 2:59

SUBJECT: Discussion of Field Control's Experience with the
HTPV Corrective Action Plan

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters, 4330 East West Highway,
Bethesda, MD 20814

MEETING DATE: April 24, 1998

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: April 27, 1998
COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer	ES
Mohammed Khan	ES
Jim Hoebel	ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Patrick T. Holleran	President, Field Controls
Steve Guzorek	Field Controls
Gordon Kelly	Field Controls

MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Kelly requested this meeting to brief staff on Field Control's experience as a component supplier to the High Temperature Plastic Vent Pipe (HTPV) Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Mr. Holleran made the attached presentation. Field Controls raised two additional points, 1) that it is possible that improperly sized power venters could be installed on some appliances subject to the CAP, and 2) that there appears to be a delay between installations being logged as corrected, and the actual field installation of the power venter. ES staff responded that it would pass the information along to the appropriate CPSC personnel.



CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

5/27/98

7/11/98

No Mfrs/PrvtLblrs or
Products Identified

Excepted by

Comments Processed. FREE
ATTACHED

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
ASSOCIATION

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CPSC MEETING AGENDA

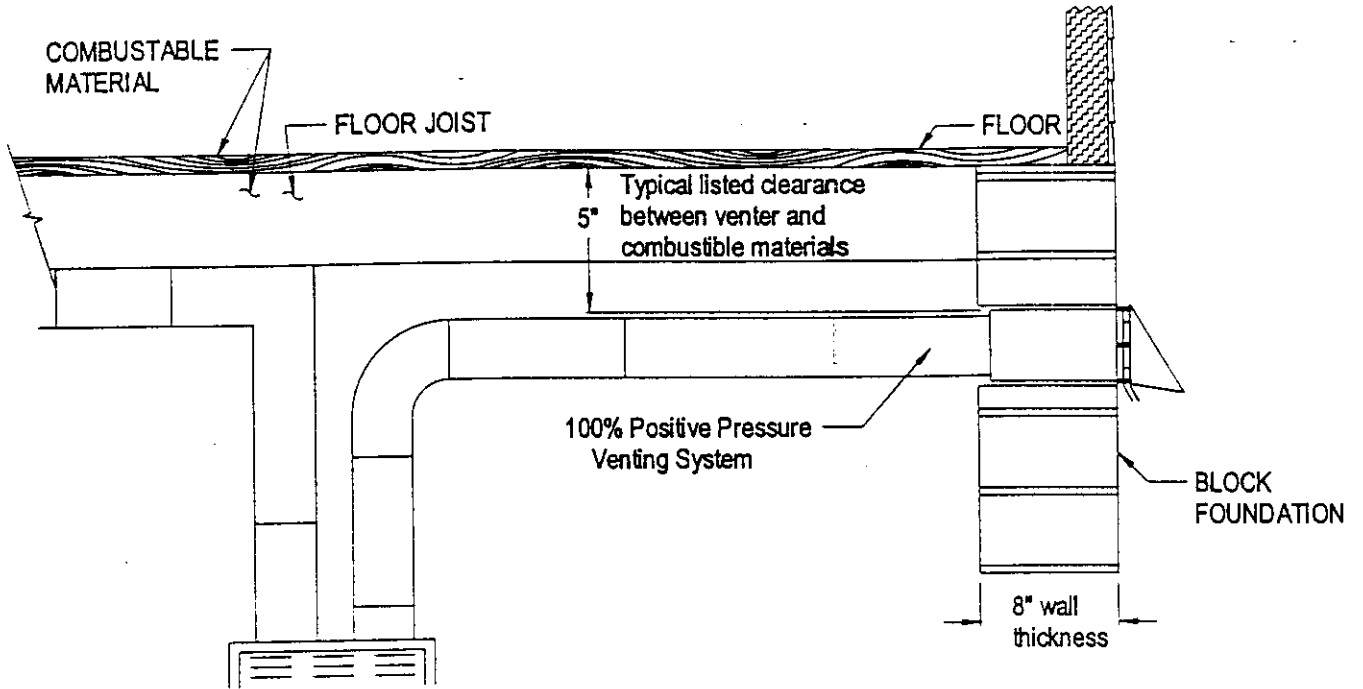
- I. Background
 - A. Field Controls
 - B. HTPV problem - (Exhibit 1)
Form #4177
 - C. SWG solution - (Exhibits 2 & 3)
 - D. Canadian recall
 - E. Visit with CPSC on 6/20/97 - Mike Gidding

- II. CAP Program
 - A. Overview - (Exhibit 4)
 - B. Our presentation - (Exhibit 4A)
 - C. Current status
 - D. Field Controls' role

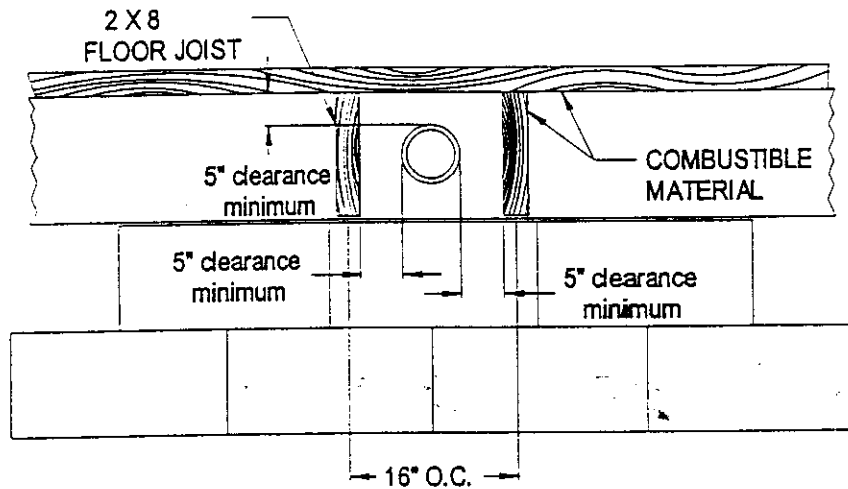
- III. CAP Issues
 - A. What venter is approved with each furnace? - (Exhibit 5 Rheem/Trane)
 - B. Program download - (Exhibit 6)
 - C. Statistics - (Exhibit 7)
 - D. Does consumer have information to make informed choice?

- IV. Will the CAP Program be successful?
- A. What is successful?
 - B. Where are the advertisements?
 - C. What about the phone calls that did not get through?
 - D. Is \$400/changeout enough money for the power vent manufacturer, the wholesaler and the contractor?

Diagram of a HTPV Plastic Positive Pressure System



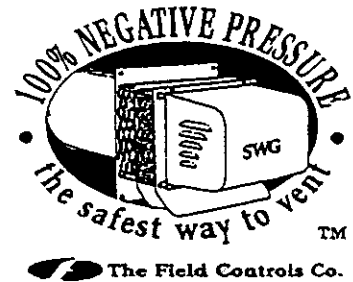
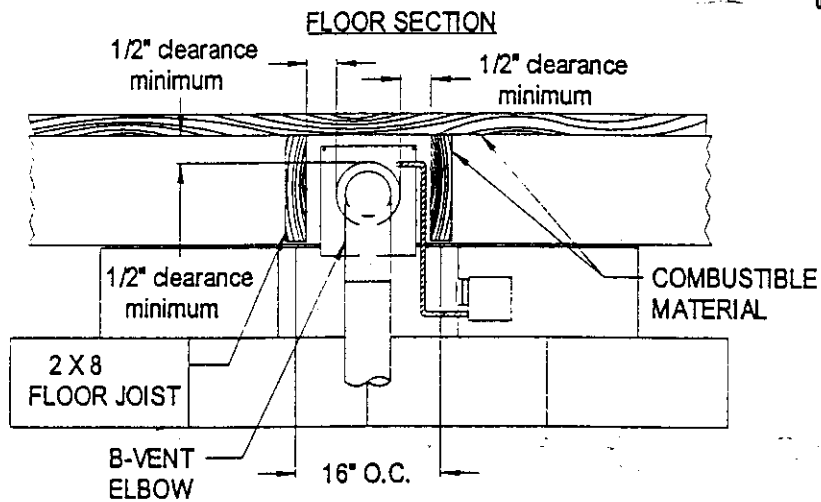
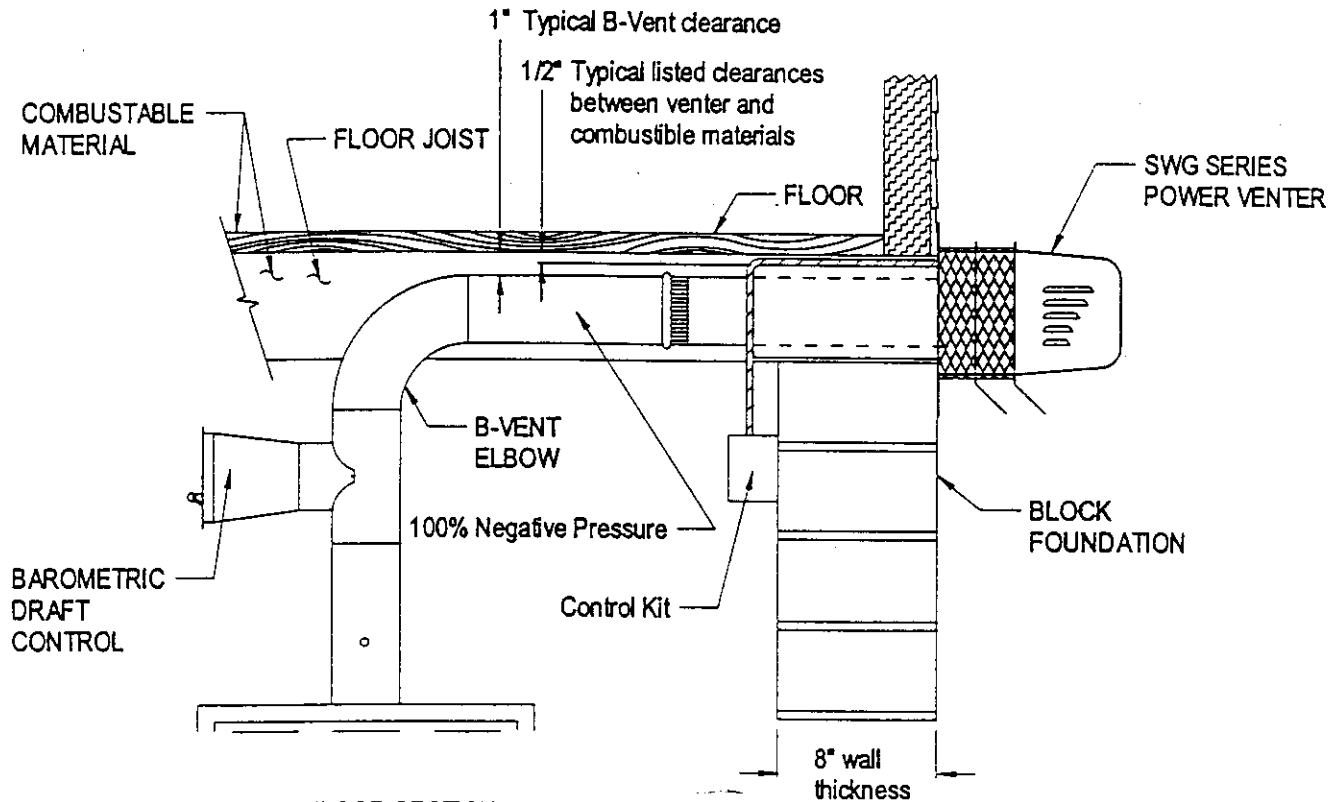
FLOOR SECTION



Concerns:

- * All joints must be sealed regardless of vent pipe material used.
- * Any loose joints or cracks will cause the flue gases to leak!

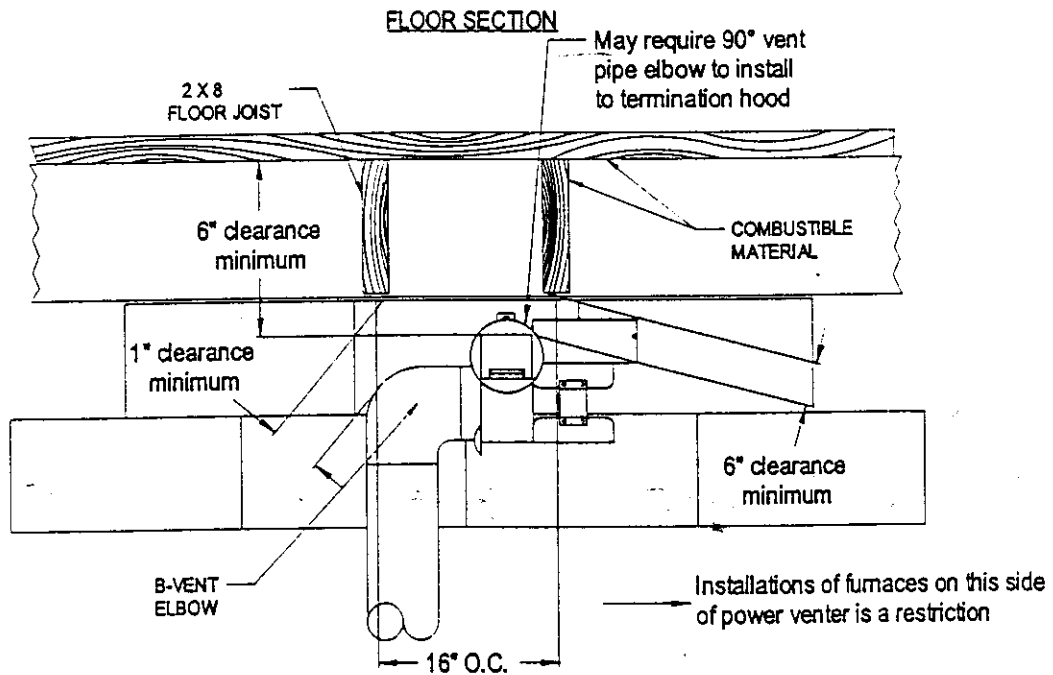
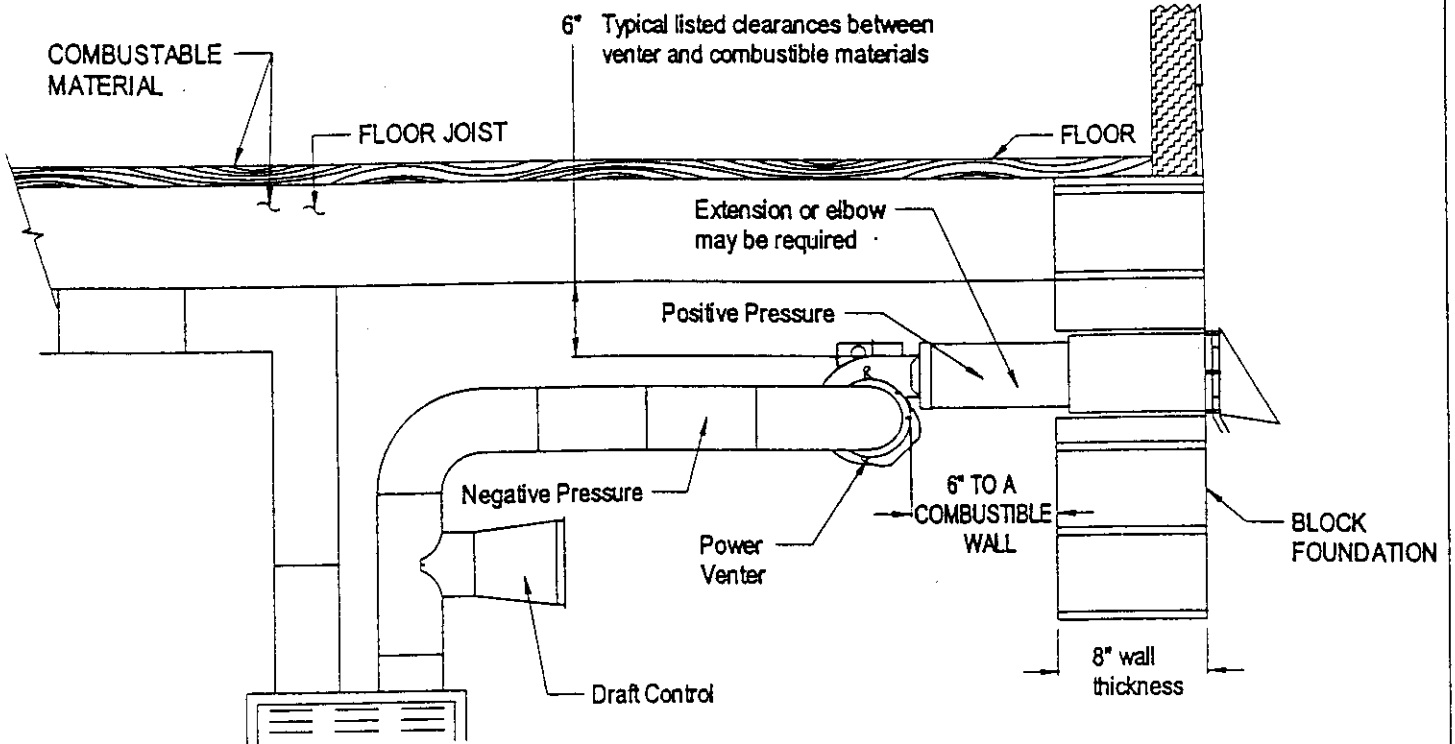
Diagram of a Total Negative Pressure System



The "SWG" Sidewall Power Venter:

- * No need to seal vent pipe.
- * Even with some vent pipe corrosion, there will be NO flue gas leakage.
- * 1/2" minimum clearances to combustible materials allows easy and flexible retro fit applications
- * Vent system may lay in same pathway as HTPV pipe, with no modifications of floor joists required.

Diagram of a Conventional Power Venting System



CLEARANCES SHOWN: Assume no structural changes to floor joist

Concerns:

- * There is at least one section of the vent pipe that is under a positive pressure and must be sealed.
- * If there are any loose or unsealed joints or seams in the positive pressure sections of either the venter housing or vent pipe, the flue gases will leak.
- * The power venter and vent pipe connection will not fit between floor joist without structural modifications.
- * There is no strict control over where venter is installed; positive pressure segment may vary in length.



INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL SERVICES

Charlotte ▪ Cleveland ▪ Dallas ▪ Irvine ▪ Nashville ▪ Toronto ▪ Vancouver

November 20, 1997

Mr. Steve Guzorek
Field Controls
2630 Airport Road
Kinston, NC 28504

Subject: Remote Power Venters - SWG Series

Dear Mr. Guzorek,

The subject series of remote power venters is used in conjunction with several A.G.A. certified furnaces and boilers as a means of assisting the exhausting of flue products on mid efficient appliances that are vented horizontally.

Typically, when a mechanically assisted appliance is vented horizontally, the product is classified as a Category III appliance. Under this category, the vent system is considered to be under a positive pressure. As a result, the system needs to be air tight to prevent the leakage of flue products into the living space. However, since the SWG series has a blower mounted at the exhaust end of the venting system, the horizontal vent will be under a negative pressure. As a result, the system is classified as a Category I system. Category I systems are not required to be air tight. They can be either single wall metal pipe or a B-Vent system.

We recognize that this form of venting is relatively new. It affords an appliance manufacturer the option to vent a Category I appliance horizontally. Hopefully, this letter will clarify our position on this issue.

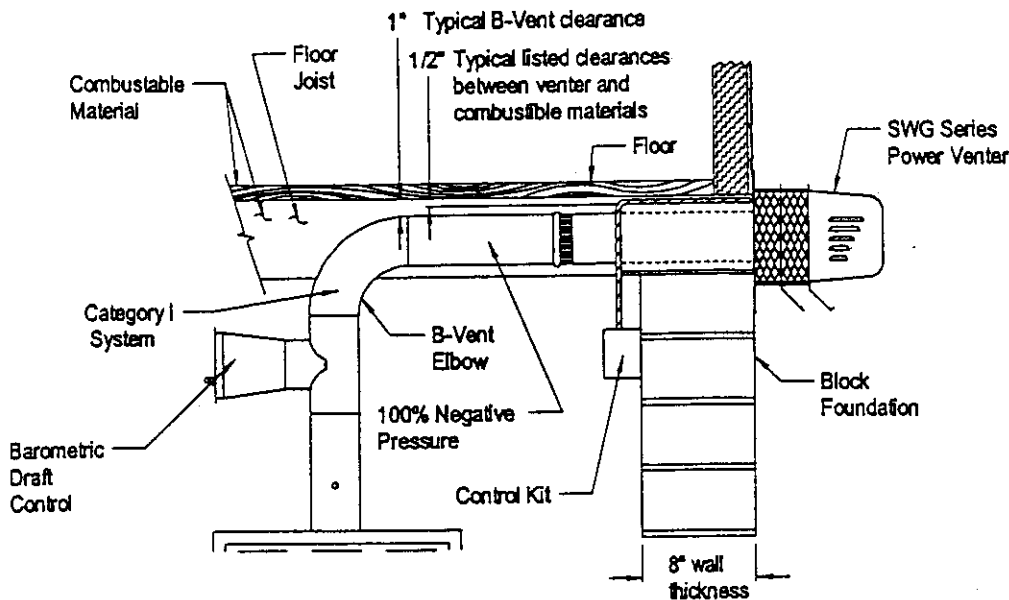
Please call me with any questions.

Sincerely,


John P. Gorman
Project Manager

SWG Installation Comparison Chart

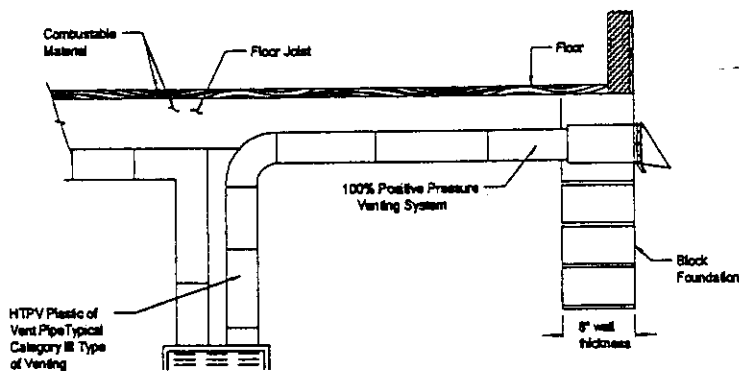
1. Diagram of a 100% Negative Pressure SWG System



1. The safest way to sidewall vent

- The "SWG" Sidewall Power Venter
- 100% Negative Pressure
- No need to seal vent pipe with negative pressure.
- Even with some corrosion, there will be NO flue gas leakage.
- 1/2" minimum clearances to combustible materials allows easy and flexible retro fit application of HTPV pipe.
- Vent system may lay in same pathway as HTPV pipe, with no modifications of floor joists required.

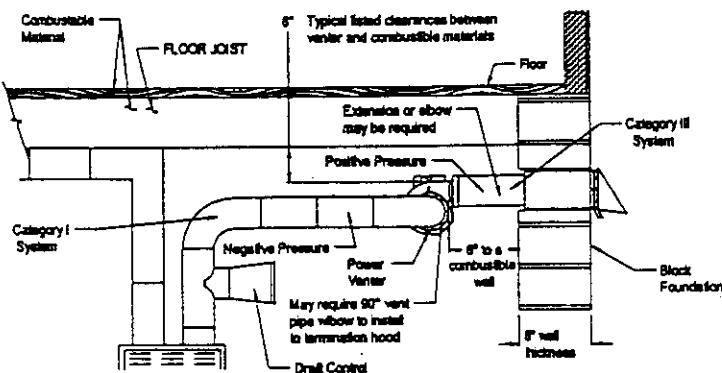
2. Diagram of a HTPV Plastic Positive Pressure System



2. Unsafe Installation

- All joints must be sealed regardless of vent pipe material used.
- Any loose joints or cracks will cause the flue gases to leak!
- The CPSC has determined that it should be replaced.

3. Diagram of a Conventional Power Venting System



3. Problem Installation

- There is at least one section of the vent pipe that is under a positive pressure and must be sealed.
- If there are any loose or unsealed joints or seams in the positive pressure sections of either the venter housing or vent pipe, the flue gases will leak.
- The power venter and vent pipe connection will not fit between floor joist without structural modifications.
- There is no strict control over where venter is installed; positive pressure segment may vary in length.

POWER VENT KIT COMPARISON CHART

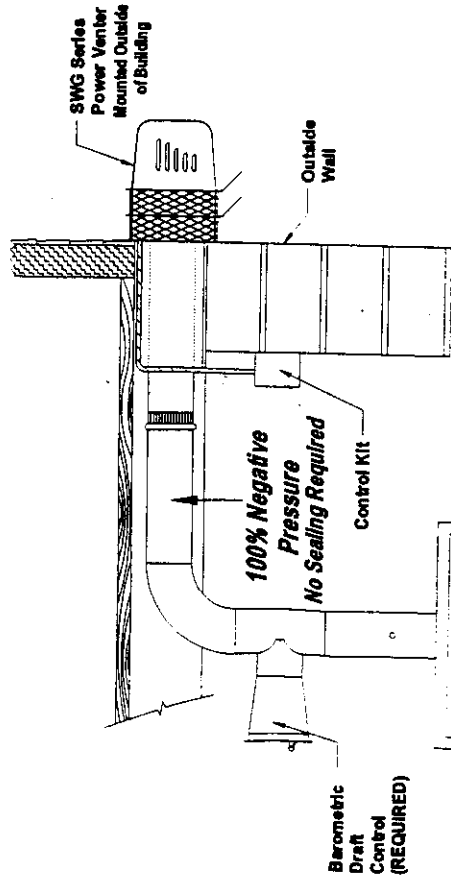
ITEMS INCLUDED	FIELD CONTROLS SWG VENT KITS	GOODMAN VENT KIT	TJERNLUND GPAK KIT	FIELD CONTROLS PVG VENT KIT
POWER VENTER (WITH 100 % NEGATIVE PRESSURE)	YES	NO	NO	NO
POWER VENTER (WITH OUTLET UNDER POSITIVE PRESSURE)	NO	YES	YES	YES
AIR FLOW CONTROL ON POWER VENTER	YES	NO	LIMITED STARTING TO OFFER	YES
SEALING OF VENTER OUTLET AND VENT PIPE REQUIRED	NO	YES	YES	YES
POWER VENTER HOUSING CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL	1/2 INCH *	1 INCH *	6 INCHES *	6 INCHES *
TERMINATION HOOD	YES*	YES	YES	YES
EASILY MOUNTING BETWEEN FLOOR JOISTS	POWER VENTER AND TERMINATION IS ONE ASSEMBLY	SOME STRUCTURAL FLOOR JOIST CHANGES MAY BE REQUIRED	SOME STRUCTURAL FLOOR JOIST CHANGES MAY BE REQUIRED	SOME STRUCTURAL FLOOR JOIST CHANGES MAY BE REQUIRED
TERMINATION HOOD VENT PIPE MATERIAL	ALUMINIZED STEEL	TYPE - B VENT PIPE	ALUMINUM	ALUMINIZED STEEL
CONSTRUCTION METHOD USED FOR THE VENT PIPE IN THE TERMINATION HOOD	LAP JOINT RIVETED EVERY 2 INCHES	CONTINUOUS LOCK SEAM (SEAM NOT EXPOSED FOR SEALING)	LAP JOINT RIVETED AT ONE END ONLY	CONTINUOUS LOCK SEAM
POST PURGE TIMER	YES	YES	INCLUDED GPAK-JT.-1T & -1TR ONLY	YES
DRAFT CONTROL INCLUDED WITH KIT	YES	YES (NOT LISTED)	NO	YES
MANUFACTURE KIT LISTING	MOST MAJOR MANUFACTURERS	ONLY WITH GOODMAN GMP(V) SERIES FURNACES	ONE MANUFACTURER LISTING	ONE MANUFACTURER LISTING
BEST PRINTED WHOLESALE PRICING	\$ 179.53 TO \$ 192.30	\$97.00	\$ 151.80 TO \$ 156.75	\$150.20
ADDED COSTS (LESS VENT PIPE)	NONE	NONE	DRAFT CONTROL (\$ 12.00 TO \$ 22.00)	NONE
TOTAL PRINTED WHOLESALE KIT COST (LESS VENT PIPE)	\$ 179.53 TO \$ 192.30	\$97.00	\$ 163.60 TO \$ 178.75	\$150.20

* The listed clearance to combustible material for the HTPV plastic pipe is 5 inches

Installation Safety Review Sheet

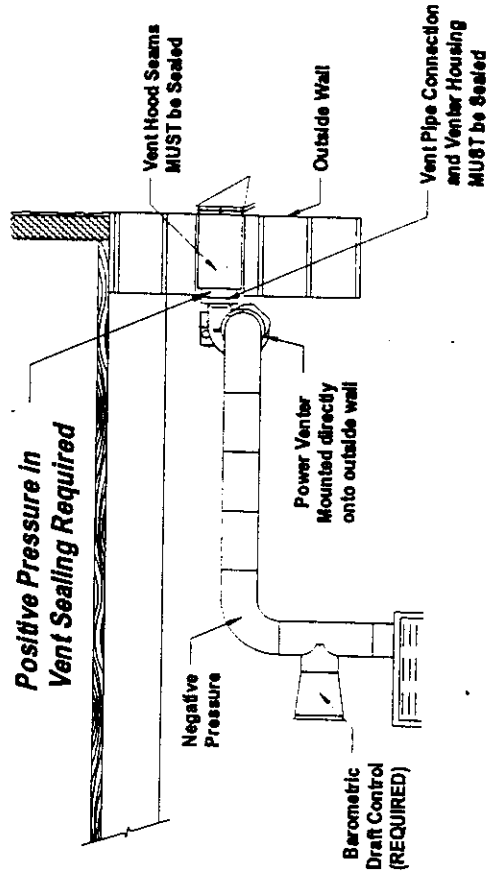
These items should be discussed with the contractor and be checked before signing Corrective Action Program job form.

Field Control's Power Venter System Safety Points



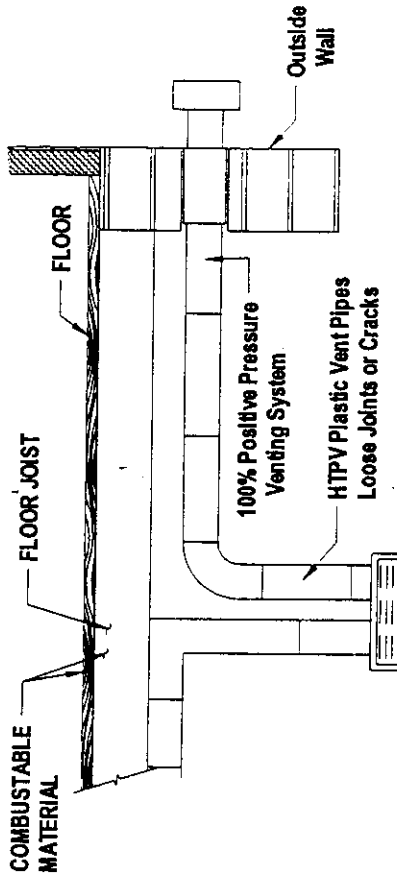
- * Must have a Barometric Draft Control

Tiernland's Power Venter System Safety Points



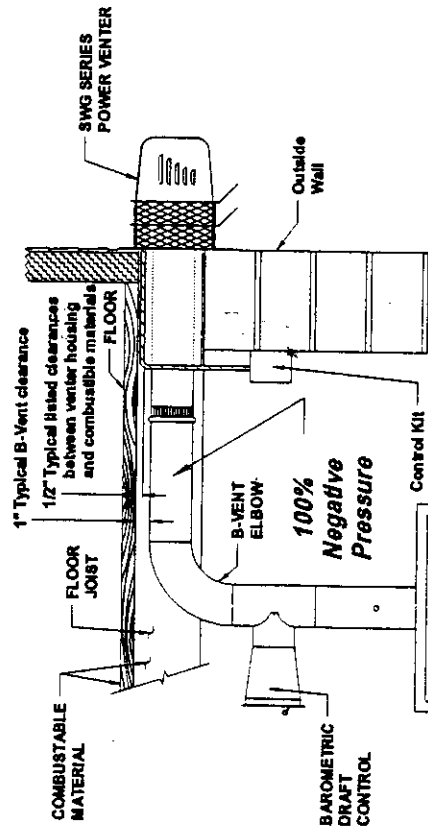
- * Must have a Barometric Draft Control
- * Power venter must be mounted on outside wall
- * Vent hood, vent pipe, and power venter joints and seams must be sealed

Existing Problem: Plastic Pipe System



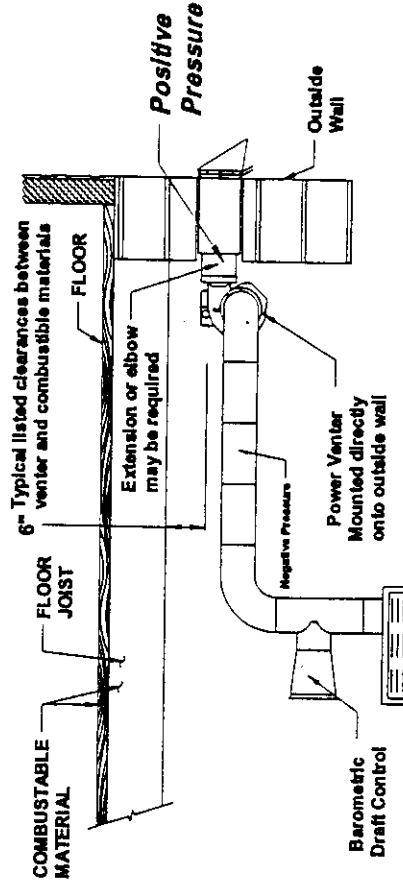
- ◆ Positive pressure system requires sealing. Any loose joints or cracks will cause the live gas to leak!
- ◆ The CPSC has determined that plastic pipe systems should be replaced.

Field Control's SWG Venting Solution



- ◆ Negative Pressure, no need to seal vent pipe.
- ◆ Approved clearance between power venter housing and combustible material, 1/2" minimum.
- ◆ Barometric draft control required.

Tjernland's G-Pak Venting Solution



- ◆ Positive pressure section of vent requires sealing or vent hood pipe seams and joints.
- ◆ Power venter must be located directly in and on the exterior wall of the structure.
- ◆ Approved clearance between power venter housing and combustible material, 6" minimum.
- ◆ Barometric draft control required.



FIELD CONTROLS

THE VENTING SOLUTIONS COMPANY

May 15, 1998

Mr. Todd A. Stevenson
Deputy Secretary & Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Office of the Secretary
4340 East West Highway - Room 502
Bethesda, MD 29814-4408

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

This letter is in response to your summary of the meeting we had in your office on April 24th, 1998. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the visit made to Mike Gidding June 20, 1997 to update the CPSC on our participation in the CAP Program. The following represents the items discussed:

- It is in everyone's best interest to make this program successful. Assuming there are 200,000 - 300,000 installations of HTPV, is 10 - 20% changeout adequate for a successful replacement program in light of the danger associated with venting products of combustion?
- The contractor may not have been given adequate installation instructions to ensure proper/safe installation. Not sealing positive vent sections of b-vent or vent hoods could result in carbon monoxide leakage. Refer to the diagrams we prepared and presented - *(copies enclosed)*.
- With regard to consumer awareness, we were informed that there would be extensive advertising. So far there has been very little and BRI informed us that because of their backlog, certain aspects of the advertising has been postponed.
- Feedback from contractors, wholesalers, and BRI confirms that the \$400 labor allowance is not enough to attract quality contractors.
- Has the proper documentation been provided to ensure that the manufacturer approved venter is being installed with the proper furnace model.

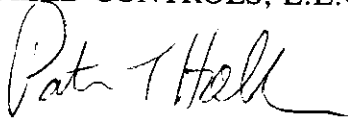
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
May 15, 1998
Page 2

In summary, our company has had extensive involvement in this program and our main concern is the safety of the consumer. We expect our comments to be interpreted as constructive and helpful.

Please feel free to contact us as we are willing to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

FIELD CONTROLS, L.L.C.



Patrick T. Holleran
President

PTH/jgh

Enclosures

cc: Don Switzer - CPSC
Fred Barr - Field Controls, L.L.C.
Steve Guzorek - Field Controls, L.L.C.
Gordon Kelly - Field Controls, L.L.C.



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

FIELD CONTROLS CO.
MAY 11 1998
RECEIVED

May 4, 1998

Mr. Patrick T. Holleran
President
Field Controls
2630 Airport Road
Kinston, NC 28504

RE: Meeting Summary dated April 27, 1998

Dear Mr. Holleran:

The Commission intends to make the enclosed meeting summary a part of its public record. We are sending you the summary so you may comment on the information under the procedures in section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) (copy enclosed). That section requires the Commission to provide the opportunity to comment on certain information from which the identity of a manufacturer or private labeler of a consumer product may be readily ascertained by the public. The comments you submit pertaining to the information will be considered during our processing of the meeting summary. Prior to disclosure of the meeting summary, the Commission will determine the reasonable steps to be taken, if necessary, to fulfill the requirements of section 6(b)(1) of the CPSA. You may also request confidential treatment of information in accordance with section 6(a)(3) of the CPSA.

To assist the Commission in evaluating the accuracy of the information contained in the meeting summary, your comments on the enclosed material must be specific and supported by documentary evidence, where available. You should also include with your comments all explanatory data or other relevant information for the Commission's consideration. Please note that Commission considers broadly expressed comments that lack specific supporting information insufficient to sustain objections to or comments on accuracy.

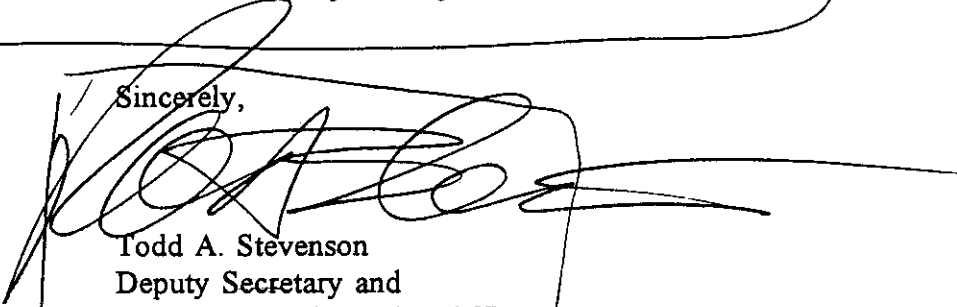
If the Commission decides to disclose the meeting summary after its review, taking into consideration your comments, the Commission may also release to the public your comments (or a summary) unless you request that your comments (or portions) not be released. If making this meeting/telephone summary available to the public requires

Mr. Patrick T. Holleran
President
Page 2

explanatory statements, these statements may be based, in part, on your comments. Therefore, please be specific, and let us know if there is any other information pertaining to the subject matter of the meeting of which we should be aware.

To permit full consideration, your written comments must be received within 20 calendar days of the date of this letter with three additional days allowed if you receive the material by mail. Comments should be sent to me. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Todd A. Stevenson
Deputy Secretary and
Freedom of Information Officer
Office of the Secretary

Enclosures

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