

Title: HSE safety alert on checking explosion relief panels

Date issued: 27 October 2009

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has issued an important Safety Alert advising all users of direct-fired batch ovens of the importance of explosion relief panels. Gas Safe Register advises all registered engineers involved in the installation and maintenance of this and similar types of commercial and industrial equipment with enclosed burners to ensure that any explosion relief provision is checked and meets the generic advice given below

HSE advises checking explosion relief panels

As a result of an on-going investigation into a fatal gas explosion in a small commercial bakery, HSE is issuing an alert to all users of direct-fired batch ovens with rear-acting explosion relief panels to ensure that:

1. The explosion relief panel is free to operate;
2. Any cladding panels over the explosion relief panel are only lightly retained and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; and
3. There is adequate space at the rear of the oven for the explosion relief to operate as intended – this area must be kept as a 'no-go' area and should be kept clear of stored materials and any other obstructions that might interfere with the correct operation of the explosion relief panel.

All bakeries, irrespective of size, are advised to check that the explosion relief panels on their ovens are free to operate properly without impediment or obstruction.

For further information on the provision, design and construction of explosion reliefs, reference should be made to Appendix 8 of IGE/UP/12⁽¹⁾.

Bibliography

(1) IGE/UP/12 – Application of burners and controls to gas fired process plant

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