

October 4, 2018

RE: Massachusetts Natural Gas Overpressure event September 13, 2018

You are probably aware, from news reports, of the gas explosions that occurred in the Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover areas north of Boston, MA on Thursday, September 13th, 2018. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) indicated that a gas line in the Lawrence area experienced an overpressure event that caused the explosions. Ingersoll-Rand is providing this document as guidance to assist distributors and contractors in understanding the potential impact an overpressure event could have on the operation of a residential gas furnace gas valve and how to determine if a gas valve must be replaced.

All Ingersoll-Rand residential furnace products are certified by Intertek (ETL) to ANSI standard Z21.47. Under these standards, all residential furnaces are tested and certified to a maximum gas pressure of 0.5 PSI.

Ingersoll-Rand recommends that, if you are aware of a furnace that was installed in the city or area of Lawrence, Andover, or North Andover in Massachusetts on September 13th, 2018, or if you have reason to believe that a furnace may have been affected by the overpressure event, that you or the furnace owner contact Columbia Gas to determine whether the furnace was subject to gas pressure greater than 0.5 PSI.

Columbia Gas contact is either <https://www.columbiagas.com/massachusetts/home> or 1-800-590-5571.

If a furnace experienced gas pressure greater than 0.5 PSI, then the gas valve must be replaced. An overpressure event could significantly damage the gas valve, sometimes in ways that are not easily detectable. A furnace should not be operated if it experienced greater than 0.5 PSI of gas pressure unless the gas valve is replaced.