

Gas space heating appliances with damaged heat exchangers

If you are working on an old gas space heating appliance and notice that it has developed a crack or split in the heat exchanger then it should be condemned as unsafe to use and turned off.

A split in a heat exchanger may be caused by the age of the appliance, metal fatigue or other related factors and this kind of damage is generally not something that can be economically repaired.

If a heat exchanger does split, the burnt flue gases that are normally vented safely to the flue could leak into the room through the split. This is a potentially dangerous situation to persons in the room, particularly if carbon monoxide is present in the flue gases.

The Gas Act requires any such damage should be brought to the attention of the owner or user, and in the interest of their safety, the appliance should be turned off. The appliance should also be marked by a 'do not operate' safety tag to identify there is an issue.

This tag must not be removed until the matter is rectified and the appliance can be operated safely. It may be appropriate to advise your customer on whether spare parts are available and an estimated cost of repairs. It might also be that a replacement appliance is the best option and you should advise your client accordingly.

Damaged heat exchangers can pose a significant hazard and it is important that appropriate corrective action is taken quickly.



Burned timber panel on casing



Heat damaged appliance casing

More information

For more information please visit the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) website sa.gov.au/otr



Damaged heat exchanger



Metal fatigue and cracked heat exchanger

More information

For more information please visit the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) website sa.gov.au/otr