

From: <Edward.Fryer@hse.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: **HSE Query - Flame arrestors.**
Date: 12 December 2008 16:39:42 GMT
To: <Technical@bullfinch-gas.co.uk>

Dear Mr Andrews,

I have had a specialist inspector look at your enquiry. He has confirmed that our position has remained unchanged. The guidance in HSG 139 "The safe use of compressed gasses in welding, flame cutting and allied processes " states that flame arresters are not required with air aspirated blowpipes.

This is the guidance on flame arrestors:

"Flame arresters incorporating pressure or temperature actuated cut-off valves – sometimes known as 'flashback arresters' – reduce the risk of flashbacks entering cylinders or distribution pipework, and help protect cylinders from the effects of fire by cutting off the gas supply in the event of a flashback. They should be fitted at the pressure regulator outlet connection of all acetylene cylinders or outlet points from acetylene distribution systems and manifolds. It is highly advisable to fit flame arresters incorporating cut-off valves at the outlet connections of pressure regulators for other fuel gases and oxygen, too. They are particularly valuable where flashbacks are more likely to occur (eg in training establishments or where there is multiple usage from a manifold system) or where immediate access to the gas supply control valves may be difficult in an emergency – because of the lengths of hoses in use or because of work on different levels or in confined spaces. An alternative location for the flame arrester is the blowpipe inlet connections, but although in this location they offer worthwhile protection against flashbacks originating in the blowpipe, they offer no fire protection from a sustained hose fire, for example from a hose leak ignited by a blowpipe or hot surface. **Flame arresters are not necessary with air aspirated blowpipes.**"

If you need any further advice please give me a call.

Regards,

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