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P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

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SAFER WELDING FROM WITT GAS TECHNIQUES

A number of EN730/ISO 5175 Standard safety devices such as flashback arrestors, non-return valves and temperature sensitive gas cut-off valves, which are products used to protect single cylinders, outlet points or pipelines against flashbacks and gas return flows, may not always provide the optimum protection expected whilst oxy-fuel welding. Witt Gas Techniques Ltd, the Warrington based gas safety, control, mixing and analysis equipment supplier, has many years' experience in the development, education and supply of safety to the welding industry and have now introduced the Super 85, a high flow, slim line, re-settable flashback arrestor.

Carl Long, General Manager at Witt Gas said: "Safety in welding is paramount and although safety devices have been available for a number of years, the arrangement for incorporating them into gas supply pipeline systems has often been cumbersome using angled connections and requiring offset equipment. Sometimes they have been supplied with plastic components, not inspiring great confidence in their ability to prevent flashbacks and they are often far too weak for the flow rates being used.

The experience and expertise in welding safety products that we have gained over many years, has been put into good practice with the introduction of Super 85, a small, 33 mm x 150 mm, straight, slim line design flashback arrestor, which can be easily fitted in any orientation and in the narrowest of places having a straight valve gate with no offset connections. Importantly it has a pressure sensitive

cut-off valve to stop reverse gas flow and detect leaks upstream. It also has a flame arrestor made of sintered chrome nickel steel to extinguish dangerous flashbacks and non-return valves to prevent the formation of explosive mixtures in the gas supply. Other features include a body made of brass and a changeable filter fitted to the gas inlet protecting gas supply contamination.”

The Super 85 enhances the Company’s range of flashback arrestors for use on gas supply pipelines or gas reducing regulators with acetylene, butane, propane, natural gas, methane, hydrogen and oxygen as well as non-flammable gases.

It is designed to cut off the gas supply after every flashback or reverse gas flow, allowing the operator to resolve the cause. A visual warning is given, by the arrestor's sleeve being released to show a red ring, indicating that the gas supply has been cut off. The operator can easily manually reset the device after he/she has resolved the cause.

Carl summed up: "Flashbacks are commonly caused by operator error and the use of flashback arrestors for operator safety is an absolute must. Our experience shows that users of gas welding equipment in the UK, are asking for additional safety features such as pressure sensitive cut-off valves, a requirement that has now been generally adopted. Safety is critical in all aspects of welding and we recommend to our users that the non return valve, leak tightness and flow capacity of this equipment is tested annually using Witt Gas testing equipment and that servicing is carried out by Witt Gas engineers.

As a Company we have been at the forefront of safety technology in the use of gases and we are more than happy to discuss with users on the safe use of industrial gases.”

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