

Technical Bulletin 078

Developed with Vaillant

Title: Vaillant ecoMAX and ecoTEC ranges of boilers – Product modification and servicing reminder

Date issued: 1 July 2015

Note: This version of Technical Bulletin (TB) 078 replaces the version previously published 4 March 2011 which is now withdrawn. This version has been reviewed and where appropriate revised to ensure that it remains both current and relevant.

This Technical Bulletin provides guidance to Gas Safe registered businesses/engineers on a product modification to certain models of the Vaillant range of boilers

Introduction

This Technical Bulletin has been published in conjunction with the central heating boiler manufacturer Vaillant, to highlight a product modification to the Vaillant range of boilers listed below:

- Vaillant ecoMAX /1 combi and system boilers (1999-2001);
- Vaillant ecoMAX pro open vent boilers (2002-2006);
- Vaillant ecoMAX /2 combi and system boilers (2001- ongoing);
- Vaillant ecoTEC plus combi, system and open vent boilers (2005- ongoing)
- Vaillant ecoTEC pro combi boilers (2005 - ongoing)

Background

All of the above boilers produced **before** April 2006 were fitted with a silicon seal between the burner door and main heat exchanger (see Figure 1 below).

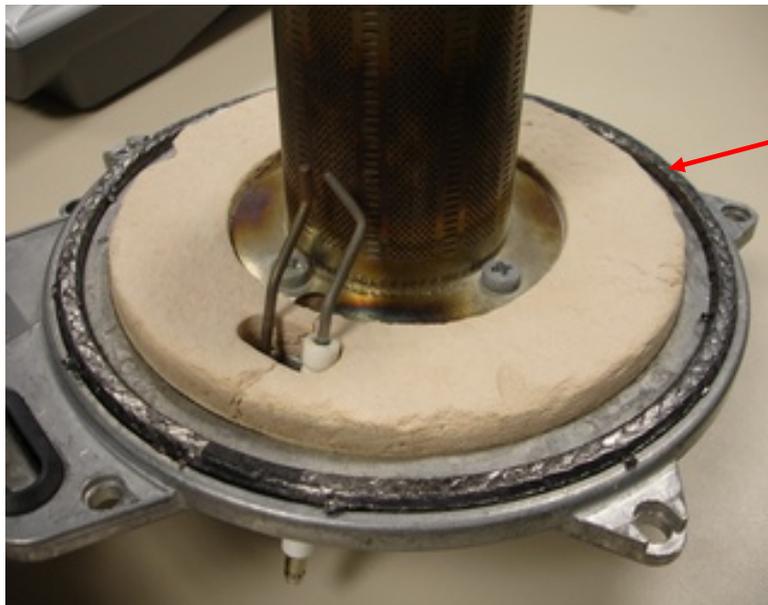


Figure 1: Burner door

From April 2006, a new graphite seal was introduced which provides the following significant benefits:

- The graphite seal does not need periodic replacement at the time of normal annual servicing unlike the original silicon seal;
- The new graphite seal is also designed such that it is not necessary to remove the burner module during annual servicing. The burner module would only need to be removed and inspected if either a combustion analysis or visual inspection of the flame picture indicate the appliance is outside of specification;

Important: If the burner door is removed for any reason a new graphite seal must be always be fitted.

- The time taken to carry out an annual service for the affected boilers fitted with the graphite seal is consequently reduced.

Important Note: *If any of the boilers on the above list (i.e. those produced **before** April 2006 and still fitted with a silicon seal) have not been serviced for an extended period, there is the possibility that the silicon seal could degrade over time to the point where heat can escape into the boiler inner casing. If left for an extended period without attention, this can result in distortion of the burner door and/or plastic components internally within the boiler being damaged through overheating.*

Actions to take when the above range of central heating boilers are identified

Where a registered engineer becomes aware of any of the above central heating boilers during the course of a visit to a property, the boiler should be checked, paying particular attention to the burner door/heat exchanger seal (as shown in the Figure 1). If the engineer believes that the appliance is of the type with the older silicon burner door/heat exchanger seal, the engineer should apply the current Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP), as described below:

- Where the seal has become defective and/or damage has occurred to the burner door or plastic components within the boiler then the appliance should be classified as 'At Risk' (AR) in accordance with the procedure detailed in the current GIUSP.
- Where there are **no** signs of distress and the appliance is otherwise operating safely, make arrangements to replace the seal as soon as possible.

In light of the significant benefits of the new graphite seal, Vaillant are strongly recommending all registered engineers to replace the existing silicon seal with a new graphite seal at the time of normal annual servicing on any of the above boilers. Full instructions for the replacement of the seal are included within the packs.

Seal packs can be obtained by contacting your local spares stockist and asking for:

- 'Gasket Kit' - Part Number: 0020038679

If Gas Safe registered engineers require any further information, they should contact the Vaillant Technical Support team on 01634 292392.

Note 1: *For details of current gas safety legislation, building legislation and industry standards for the geographical areas covered by Gas Safe Register, see the [Legislative, Normative & Informative Document List \(LNIDL\)](#)⁽¹⁾ at: <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/sign-in/> - login and visit the Technical Information area.*

Note 2: *For general information about the process behind the development of Gas Safe Register Technical Bulletins and the expectations for all Stakeholders, see [TB 1000](#)⁽²⁾ at: <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/sign-in/> - login and visit the Technical Information area.*

Bibliography

(1) LNIDL - Gas Safe Register Legislative, Normative & Informative Document List

(2) TB 1000 – An introduction to Gas Safe Register Technical Bulletins

Note: Gas Safe Register Technical Bulletins and the Legislative, Normative & Informative Document List can be viewed at: <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/sign-in/> - login and visit the Technical Information area

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