Washer update 8th October 2010

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Auditing

We have continued with our post installation audit regime, the results of which todate are:

Sites visited todate: 2767
Sites tested with LDF and found Ok: 2766 99.99%
(One installation was leaking but this was due to another issue, I've previously reported at Mamcop)
Sites found to be hand tight: 18 0.65%
The breakdown of the 18 is as follows:

- Handtight ECV 17 0.61%
- Handtight meter inlet 3 0.11%
- Handtight meter outlet 2 0.07%

Testing

We have tested a large range of meter washers, the latest of which include two batches from Cherry Source and one from HoneyCrown that appear to perform acceptably.

The results of the tests are:

Manufacturer	Size	Number tested	Failures
Cherrysource mod 1	5lt	108	0
	10lt	248	0
Cherrysource mod 2	5lt	108	0
	10lt	Non tested	na
Honeycrown "new mix"	5 lt	156	9
	10 lt	191	0

Note 1: The GL report says that no 10lt Cherrysource mod2's have been tested, but I am told that they have tested some.

Note 2: I am told that the 9 Honeycrown 5lt washers that failed were at the start of the assessment and that something was wrong with the test and that the HoneyCrown new mix can be considered as 100% pass, but I need to get this clarified by GL.

The above washers are in the process of being tested across the temperature range -20 to +40degC and have been found to illustrate the “relaxing phenomina” at -20degC, further testing is in hand.

As such I think the summary is that the above batches of washers are not perfect but are considerably better than the original ones.

BS746

On Wednesday BSi GSE/25 were asked to open up BS746 for review, which they have agreed to do, and we have offered to assist them with the proposal forms, etc.

We have received information concerning the composition of the latest CherrySource Washers and information describing the physical properties of the HoneyCrown and CherrySource washers. We have asked both manufacturers which aspects of the composition and properties they have changed that make the Washers perform better, but neither have provided this information todate.

As such my recommendation will be that they are both invited to sit on the BS746 panel, and if a set of composition/property requirements that guarantee a good performance can not be thrashed out, the BS be modified to include a test on a large sample along the lines of the testing that we have been undertaking.