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BULLETIN

LITERATURE FILE NO.

**HCOM-SB-38**

**GENERAL  
SERVICE BULLETIN**

Since the Trane Company has a policy of continuous product improvement, it reserves the right to change specifications and design without notice. The installation and servicing of the equipment referred to in this booklet should be done by qualified, experienced technicians.

8/27/80  
Reviewed 7/1/81

SUBJECT: RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR GASKET MATERIAL

#### INTRODUCTION:

A leaking compressor gasket condition has been identified which can occur with all reciprocating compressor models (E, F, M and R). Some marginal gasket material was used in manufacturing in limited quantities from March 1978 until mid 1979. A total switch to the marginal material was made from June 1979 through mid November 1979. Its use was discontinued November 1979. Some of the material was placed in service stock.

#### DISCUSSION:

Refrigerant leaks through gasketed joints on reciprocating compressors can occur when using the Armstrong AN8070 gasket material. These leaks occur because the Armstrong gasket material does not soften when contacted by refrigerant oil. This prevents the material from adequately compressing into normal machined seal surface irregularities. Because of this, when normal re-gasketing procedures are used (gaskets are lightly coated with refrigerant oil and then installed) it is possible that a satisfactory seal cannot be obtained.

The Armstrong material can be identified by its light grey color compared to the standard Nicollet 355 material, which is a darker grey color. The Armstrong gasket insignia is an "A" inside a circle (A). All gaskets used on reciprocating compressors may be affected. It is suggested that gasket parts stock be inspected for the Armstrong material.

#### PARTS ORDERING INFORMATION:

New gaskets may be ordered to replace the defective Armstrong material.

#### NEW PRODUCTION:

Manufacturing use of the marginal Armstrong gasket material was temporarily stopped on production compressors manufactured after November, 1979, pending development of a manufacturing process which will allow satisfactory use of the Armstrong material. Service stock compressor gaskets and gasket kits were "spot" inspected and all Armstrong material was removed where a high concentration was found.