



You probably recognize that your Votator® and Thermutator® Heat Exchangers are valuable elements of your production facility. Day in and day out, they continuously and efficiently heat and cool products that often cannot be handled in any other equipment. You may not be aware that these units are considered pressure vessels under the ASME Code, and that SPX Process Equipment is the only facility authorized to make OEM repairs to the removable tubes that maintain their ASME Code certification. This certification is your assurance that the equipment meets its original design pressure rating.

The removable tubes are wear parts, and must be replaced when they lose too much metal. Their inner surface is scraped by rotating blades and is potentially exposed to corrosive or abrasive products or cleaners. In some cases chrome plating is applied to resist mechanical wear, but it eventually wears away or the tubes become damaged or scored and lose performance. SPX Process Equipment can inspect the tubes against the original drawings and determine whether they can be honed to restore a smooth inner surface, while keeping enough tube wall thickness to satisfy the ASME Code design calculations. Removable tubes that are worn beyond repair are condemned by our facility for your protection.

A breach in the removable tube that occurs during operation could be an extremely costly and hazardous event. In a recent incident, a removable tube was honed by an unauthorized machine shop that removed too much metal. The extremely thin tube wall flexed under the pressure of the product and the scraping blade edge, until one blade penetrated and tore a hole in the tube. Consequences of this kind of failure can include: contamination of product - with a damaging recall; circulation of product throughout a media system like a refrigeration compressor installation; and/or release of a hazardous substance like ammonia refrigerant inside your facility! Even if these are not high risks in your application, your production line will be down or operating at reduced capacity for some time until a replacement tube can be obtained.

Having your tubes professionally repaired by SPX Process Equipment just makes sense, but there are other potential benefits as well. Maintaining ASME certification keeps you in compliance with state and local regulations, depending on the location of your facility. It is also a requirement of most business insurance carriers, so you are helping to protect your company against potential fines and uninsured losses. With stakes this high, tube repair by SPX Process Equipment is the smart bet.

›Waukesha Cherry-Burrell

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