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RE; Desiccant Breather Comparisons

In the spring of 2005, Y2K Fluid Power changed suppliers of our desiccant breathers. This is a shortened summary of our comparison that helped us determine which breather was better for our needs and the needs of our customers.

The Blue desiccant gel type breather was completely disassembled by hand. There was little glue on the filters, but other than that, I was able to have the breather completely disassembled in a minute or two. There seem to be many “gaps” where air could leak around the filters, which are only 8.38 square inches of area x .05” thick. No glue on some of the major internal parts concerns me. The body is hard to see through, to see the silica gel condition. There are 6 holes at the bottom that can either all be opened or only a portion of them for low air flow applications and extending element life. This silica gel is blue and turns pink, the color shades are very hard to notice, as it turns from a medium shade/color to a lighter shade/color and...

* There is a growing debate over Cobalt Blue Dichloride Dye (used to color the blue silica gel), becoming a class 2 carcinogen. If that happens, there may be “hazardous labeling” required, greater risks due to exposure and possibly disposal issues. This could be a long term liability for us and one that could jeopardize our health and our customers.

The Gold desiccant breather is glued together in its entirety. It had to be cut apart with a hacksaw. There were no “air gaps” inside the unit or places where air could leak around the filters. The clear body design makes the silica gel condition easy to see. The air filter has 14.19 square inches of surface area x .08 inches thick. The O-Ring that seals the desiccant breather can be cut to length for low air flow applications and extending element life. The gold colored silica gel changes to a distinct dark forest green when replacement is needed; this dark color shade makes inspections of remaining life very easy, even from a distance.

SUMMARY:

The GOLD desiccant breather has more silica gel, it has a much larger and deeper filter element, (which means they will last longer, retain more silica gel dust, and airborne particulate). They have a larger air flow capacity, lower pressure drop, more visible desiccant color changes and a very well designed/built breather. We completely avoid any further debate over the use of Cobalt Blue Dichloride Dyes.

Our change in suppliers reflects our evaluation & determination of a superior product and a better value for our customers’ purchasing dollars.

Steve Anderson – Manager/Y2K “World Class Reliability Solutions”.