



January 23, 2015

A. O. Smith Sales Team,

Some of the cosmetic and component part changes related to NAECA will be phased in early as the factories begin implementing the changes necessary to support the new higher efficiency designs. None of these changes will have an effect on the fit, form and function of the current product. This means that none of the critical dimensions of height, diameter or connections on current product changes prior to production of the NAECA compliant product.

Each factory will phase these changes in over a different period time between now and April 2015. This is because the timing related to tooling changes, component availability and depletion of existing parts inventories varies by location. Be assured that all of our facilities will be 100% converted and NAECA model product ready by the NAECA deadline.

The first change you will begin to notice is that the electrical junction box on the A. O. Smith brand residential electric water heaters manufactured in Ashland City will change from a round junction box to a rectangular junction box. This conversion is being made the week of January 22. This change will take place at a later date in the Juarez facility and by April 1 all residential electric water heaters from these facilities will feature the new junction box. Product manufactured in the Johnson City facility has used this junction box design for several years now.

Current Junction Box



New Junction





The two other most significant changes that will take place prior to NAECA are an update to the jacket color for the A. O. Smith brand and the early transition to the free flowing ball-type brass drain valve. The current A. O. Smith color is a beige tone. We will transition to a cool grey color. Plastic grommets and trim pieces will also be changed to match. We will retain the blue/cold and red/hot color coded flanges. The transition will begin around March 15 and be completed for all factories by the time the NAECA product line is in production.

The date for the drain valve conversion is still being determined, but it is likely that it will start to appear on existing products prior to the full NAECA conversion. Photos of the current and the new design are included below for reference.

Current Drain Valve



New Drain



We'll be sending out additional details and information to help with the transition to the new product line as the clock counts down to April 16, 2015. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, Cliff Deidiker or Bill Hewa if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Ralph Perez