

**Date:** February 16, 2012

**Part Number:** AOSRG84015A

## **Power Vented Products (addendum)**

I'm sending this bulletin out in response to questions that have come up in regards to my Product Notification e-mailed February 13, 2012 (# AOSRG84015).

The certification standard I'm referencing in my earlier bulletin is the ANSI Z21.10.1A-CSA 4.1A-2009 (current addition). The new non-metallic vent test that was added to the ANSI standard at the end of last year has many parts to the actual test. The one part, I addressed is the requirement that we list and show a maximum ambient temperature that these heaters will see at installation. In our case this is 140 degrees F. for the A. O. Smith power vented products. This ANSI standard is used by all water heater manufacturers to assure safety, durable construction and acceptable performance of their products so all will have to show a maximum ambient temperature for installations. This new requirement had to be implemented on power vented water heaters (that use plastic vent material) for product produced in 2012.

The other issue is cellular-core PVC material. We recommend that schedule 40 PVC, ABS or CPVC material be used for vent material with our power vented water heaters. Cell-core PVC has been removed from the allowable vent material tables in the commercial ANSI standard (ANSI Z21.10.3-CSA 4.3 2011) and does not meet the requirements of Canada's CUL S636 requirements. We also believe it will be pulled from the residential ANSI standard in the near future. Based on this information, we should begin to direct our customers away from this cell-core material as soon as possible. Suggesting that solid core schedule 40 PVC, ABS or CPVC materials are used when venting our power vented products.

One other product change, we have made recently is on top T&P Ultra Low NOx atmospheric vent products, which are sold in California. In the past we had the side T&P opening plugged and we left an opening on the top of the heater for installation of the T&P valve. However, due to an increase of field leaks at the side T&P spud, we removed this opening on the tank. If a top T&P model is ordered there will not be an opening on the side of the heater. If this opening had been used for other purposes during installation, we recommend that you tee into the hot or cold water lines above the heater depending on the secondary opening need to the tank.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or your local A. O. Smith Sales Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cliff Deidiker'.

Cliff Deidiker  
Residential Product Manager