

Tech Note

April 17, 2009

Re: Level Indicator Glass Failures

**By: Tom Quello,
AIR Service Manager**

Keep an EYE out for a rare situation that has been the topic of discussion within the ammonia refrigeration industry.

Apparently, there have been very isolated incidents of liquid level sight glasses deteriorating to the point that the sight glasses fail. It is suspected that during certain conditions there is a reaction occurring with the ammonia refrigerant and the materials used to construct the glass.

As of now, there has not been a manufacture recall of products nor has a manufacturer been identified. Warning signs of this problem are cloudy appearance and/or possible hairline cracks in the glasses. If you find your sight glasses to have chips along the edges replace them, as it can significantly impact the strength of the glass.

Please inspect your sight glasses and if you see these symptoms developing in the glass, it should be replaced immediately. Replacement of the glass should be done by a qualified technician. It is important to follow manufacturer's instructions to assemble the components in the proper order and to torque the retainer using the manufacture's specifications.

Please call us at A.I.R. for assistance with this issue or any of your refrigeration needs.

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