



Your Medical Gas Fittings Specialist™

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IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE

On April 24th, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) issued a Public Health Notification to alert the public to the dangers of Oxygen Regulator Fires Resulting from Incorrect Use of CGA 870 Seals and to point out the important precautions that can be taken to avoid such fires.

The FDA refers to two types of washers that are commonly used to create the seal at the cylinder valve/regulator-yoke interface. One type of washer is a **Crush Gasket** that is defined as a plastic (usually Nylon) washer suitable for single use applications. The FDA has received 12 reports in which oxygen regulators have burned or exploded where the FDA and NIOSH believe that the **incorrect use** of **Crush Gasket** type seals was a major factor in both the ignition and severity of the reported incidents.

The FDA believes that Crush Gaskets are being deformed due to multiple reuses and the over-tightening of the Yoke T-Handle (i.e. using a wrench or other tool). The FDA and NIOSH are supporting forensic analysis that “flow-friction” caused by the leakage of compressed oxygen across the surface of the Crush Gasket may produce enough thermal energy to spontaneously ignite the nylon gasket material.

For Oxygen use the FDA and NIOSH suggest the use of another type of washer known as a **Sealing Washer** that is defined as a metal-bound elastomeric seal designed for multiple use applications. We want you to be aware that Bay Corporation offers (2) types of metal-bound elastomeric Sealing Washers. Our part # **RW-1** is Aluminum/Buna N construction and our part # **RW-2** is Brass/Viton Construction. Bay Corporation part # RW-2 is best suited for use with CGA 870 Oxygen connections.

Bay Corporation is one of many manufacturers that offer a **Crush Gasket** type seal. Our part # **TW-100** is a Nylon Yoke Seal (Crush Gasket) that we have sold for over 15 years. Bay Corporation has sold hundreds of thousands of our Part #TW-100 with no reported failures to date. Our seal is also used for other Compressed Gas Association (CGA) Medical Gas Assignments such as Nitrous Oxide, Carbon Dioxide, etc. Literally millions of these types of Crush Gasket Seals have been sold. We are working with the CGA to review and collect additional information to ensure the safe use of these seals.

Please refer to the NEWS section of our website (www.baycorporation.com) to review the FDA and NIOSH Public Health Notification. We feel that promoting the proper use and safety for Crush Gasket Seals is very important and recommend you print and distribute the FDA/NIOSH notice. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Service Department at **888-835-3800** (*toll free*).

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