Technical Bulletin

DRESSER GASKETS

SHELF LIFE & RECOMMENDED STORAGE OF RUBBER PRODUCTS

Shelf life of rubber products can extend (well) beyond five (5) years after they leave our facility provided that they continue to be stored in a cool, dark environment, free from the aging effects of heat, ozone contact, sunlight and weathering factors. The sunlight and weather are detrimental to the physical characteristics of the elastomer materials.

Storage of these components can be provided by many acceptable methods, such as paper cartons, bags, wooden boxes or assembled in the product if the product encases or prevents the elements from contacting the rubber com-ponents. The method of storage should prevent the rubber component from being stressed in tension of the materials beyond that normally obtained when used in the product.

Proper warehouse storage temperature should not exceed 80°F for installed gaskets in split sleeves and other gaskets being stored in boxes or bags. The storage environment should be as cool as practical; however, 32°F would be the suggested minimum storage temperature. Avoiding heat is of greatest importance, because it hastens the chemical reactions that occur to cause deterioration and harden-ing of rubber. It has been estimated the intake of oxygen and consequent deterioration of rubber doubles in rate for each 15.7°F increase in temperature. However, our com-pounds are formulated with age resistors, antioxidants and antiozonants to resist deterioration and hardening.

If it is necessary that gaskets are left outdoors at the job site, store them in their normal I.D.-O.D. position with no weight on top of them and in a cool place or protected from sunlight exposure.

Since the deteriorating factors for rubber are mainly heat, light, oxygen and ozone in the atmosphere, it is important that rubber products be stored away from these influences. Dresser has always been con-cerned with proper compounding in our gaskets so that resistance to age factors would be maintained on the shelf prior to installation on a pipeline. By the use of proper compounding ingredients such as age resistors, antioxidants, antiozonants and wax, the overall effect of these deteriorating forces is further lessened. This protection is further substantiated by laboratory tests conducted both by the rubber com-panies and Dresser's Rubber Laboratory in constant-temperature ovens, outdoor aging racks and ozone chambers. Furthermore, since the development of synthetic rubbers, more efficient age-resisting chemicals have been developed for use by the rubber compounders than previously available.

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