

WOLF STEEL TECHNICAL BULLETIN

TB-11

November, 1998

To: All Napoleon and Continental Fireplace Dealers

SUBJECT: Direct Vents and Flexible Venting Components

We periodically receive enquiries regarding the acceptability of using alternate sources for our flexible venting. Specifically, Is it okay to buy flexible liner direct from the manufacturer at lower prices? This question is asked without complete understanding of all the issues related to this subject so lets review those issues.

Responsibility! Venting like all other components and accessories used on a fireplace, are approved for use with that fireplace. It is the responsibility of the fireplace manufacturer to ensure that the fireplace is manufactured and sold as it was approved. It is the responsibility of the installer to install the fireplace and related components as the fireplace installation instructions and local codes dictate. Installation inspectors are responsible to confirm that the fireplace and its components are installed as per the installation instructions and local codes.

Aren t all liners the same? Physically most liners appear the same but when it comes to these liners being used in a balanced flue system, leakage is intolerable. Some products do not offer the same integrity that others provide and without testing each product must be treated as individual and unique. Therefore, the only practical method Wolf Steel has of maintaining the integrity of the vent system design is to control the components used.

What about the vent spacers? The purpose of the spacers design is to maintain a proper spacing between the 4" & 7" liners even when the venting makes a ninety degree turn. Obviously, if the spacers used fail to maintain the spacing the 1" clearance to combustibles is compromised and the installation is at risk. Unsecured spring type spacers are not acceptable as both movement and deterioration are likely.

Why do we care? Our fireplaces and related components are designed to stand the test of time, an important factor since we know our customers expect our products to safely perform for years & years. We back this with our President s Lifetime Warranty but the only way we have to protect that design is by controlling the accessories used with our fireplaces. This is our commitment in the partnership with our dealers. Our dealers must recognize and support their part of that partnership for our mutual successes to continue into the next millennium.