

TECHNICAL UPDATE - TU-6005

SUBJECT: Bundle Jacket Temperature Limits

There have been a number of questions recently regarding the origin of the 140°F maximum jacket surface temperature requirement seen in our literature and a number of customer specifications.

This requirement has been reported to be a standard of OSHA, UL, FM and other organizations.

Our research shows that it is part of the National Electric Code (NFPA 70).

NEC Article 427-12 under "Fixed Heating Equipment for Pipelines" states "External surfaces of pipeline and vessel heating equipment that operate at temperatures exceeding 60°C (140°F) shall be physically guarded, isolated, or thermally insulated to protect against contact by personnel in the area."

This article was issued to protect personnel working around heat traced piping from burns due to contact with the hot pipe. Though this may be the origin of the requirement, and as such only pertains to electrically heated pipe, many companies have added the requirement to all their heat tracing specifications.

Please note that this temperature requirement has nothing to do with the temperature rating of the jacket material.

Please also note that it does not restrict Dekoron/Unitherm from designing a bundle with maximum jacket surface temperatures greater than 60°C (140°F).