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Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Standards Division*

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Director

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From: Dr. Marcus Helfrich, Director NCDA&CS Standards Division

Subject: Stop Sale for Ignik TapRack 4 Refillable Propane System

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture is responsible for maintaining minimum general standards of safety for the design, construction, location, installation, and operation of the equipment used in handling, storing, measuring, transporting, distributing, and utilizing liquefied petroleum gases. To do this the Department adopts by reference the National Fire Protection Association, document NFPA 58 "Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code" (*LP-Gas Code*) as the required standards for the storage, handling and installation of liquefied petroleum gas (title 02 North Carolina Administrative Code Chapter 38 Section 0.0701).

The Department's Standards Division has issued a stop sale order for the Ignik TapRack 4 Refillable Propane System as the device has failed to meet the following criteria:

- The 1 lb. cylinders do not display the actual tare weight of the container. Per NFPA 58 5.2.8.2, "Cylinders shall be marked with the following information: (1) Water capacity of the cylinder in pounds [and] (2) – Tare weight of the cylinder in pounds, fitted for service." This requirement is derived from 49CFR178.35 (f) (8)(i) which requires "The tare weight marking must be the actual weight of the fully assembled cylinder."
- North Carolina General Statute Chapter 119-58(a)1 states that it shall be unlawful for any person to "sell any liquefied petroleum gas burning appliance designed or built for domestic use that has not been approved by the American Gas Association, Inc., the Underwriters Laboratory, Inc., or other laboratory approved by the Building Code Council." This device has not been approved by a recognized third-party testing laboratory though the company claims certification from Underwriters Laboratories, now UL Solutions. UL Solutions denies the applicability of the provided documentation to the TapRack 4 device.
- The instructions provided in the quick start guide, printed on the device label, and provided through the company website are inconsistent and shift between filling the cylinders by the dispenser's meter, by volume, and by weight. None of the provided instructions specify how many cylinders must be attached before filling, nor do they warn that cylinders must be completely empty to avoid overfilling if using the dispenser meter. No guidance exists for refilling partially filled cylinders. Because accurate tare weights are not provided on the cylinder and there is no mechanism for determining the volume of LP-gas within each container, refilling partially filled containers cannot be performed safely by weight or by the dispenser meter. Our testing confirmed

that the cylinders do not fill uniformly and can be overfilled if starting from a partially filled condition.

North Carolina General Statute Chapter 119-58(a)4 states that it shall be unlawful to “Fill a consumer tank or container in excess of 85 percent (85%) of its water capacity”. Filling cylinders by the meter is never recommended unless the cylinder is known to be brand new and has never been filled before. Also, the *LP-Gas Code* does not list filling by a meter as an acceptable method for filling propane containers. Testing conducted by the Division found that partially filled cylinders could be refilled past the maximum volume of 85% posing an immediate hazard to the operator and user.

Manufacturers and distributors will have 6 months to remove these products from retail locations. Online sales shall include a note that these products are not legal in North Carolina.