

Eddy's Boilerhouse News

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

By Eddy Emerson

Replace that old Honeywell RA890 Flame Safeguard Control.

We have been using that old reliable Honeywell RA890 since the fifties, for you younger service techs that's like 1957. I am probably the only guy left that remembers when this control was the cat's meow. The RA890 has been a good safe product that Honeywell should be real proud of but, its day is over.

Honeywell has developed the RM7890 to replace the RA890 and it has proven over the last ten years to be as good as the RA890. I could come up all kinds of reasons why the new solid state controls, like the RM7890 are better but, I want to focus on one thing in particular, and that is the ability to have a display module.

The display module is a useful tool for operation and troubleshooting. With a display we can read the flame signal without going after another meter and you know how I hate to walk back to the truck just to get a special meter. That's a great feature but not the only thing the display does. The display also allows us to take a look at the fault history. It holds the last six failures and when we have a new fault it kicks out the oldest one. All of this allows us to

see if we are having the same failure over and over again or are we having different failures, great tool.

The display cost extra but it is really worth the price. And, Honeywell has really done this display thing the best.

Fireye also has a replacement control for the RA890 that supports a display and that is the MicroM. This is also a good and proven control. The Fireye display will give flame signal, sequence and history but it doesn't have as many features as the Honeywell display. This display is also a bit pricey.

Both of these controls cost about the same. And, both require a new sub-base and re-wiring. This is not a big deal if you have enough down time.

There is a third option and that is the Quanta-Flame Control manufactured by GN Electronics Inc. of Machesney Park, IL. The Quanta-Flame control model 5004-890 is a direct replacement for the Honeywell RA890 and the Quanta-Flame control model 5004-795 is a direct replacement for the Honeywell R4795. These controls use the existing Honeywell base with no wiring changes. This control operates with existing Honeywell UV scanners or Flame Rods. This

control is UL Recognized and CSA Certified.

It has several useful features, such as: selectable trail for ignition, selectable purge time, selectable interrupted or intermittent pilot, selectable recycle or non-recycle modes and a pilot test mode. It also comes with a very inexpensive but limited display. This display will provide a flame signal reading, sequence of operation and current fault. It does not have any fault history but is a very good alternative.

You say, "Give me one good reason to replace my old RA890". I'll give you two really good reasons.

One, a RA890 control costs more than any of these others when it goes out. The second is the most important of the two. The RA890 is a re-light control not a re-cycle control. The difference is that a re-light control will immediately turn on the ignition on main flame failure whereas, a recycle control goes back through the start cycle (pre-purge, PTFI, etc.).

It is time to lay that great old reliable RA890 to rest.

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