Heat Exchangers

Storage,
Installation,
Operation
and
Maintenance

ITT Standard
ITT Fluid Technology Corporation
This bulletin has been prepared as an aid and guide to maintenance personnel. Read it thoroughly prior to installation of any ITT Standard heat exchanger in order to ensure correct installation and best performance.

**NOTE:** Before placing this equipment in operation, environment and service conditions should be checked for compatibility with materials of construction. Contact your nearest ITT Standard representative if you are not sure what the actual materials of construction are.

Successful performance of heat transfer equipment, length of service and freedom from operating difficulties are largely dependent upon:

1. Proper thermal design.
2. Proper physical design.
3. Storage practice prior to installation.
4. Method of installation, including design of foundation and piping.
5. The method of operation.
6. The thoroughness and frequency of cleaning.
7. The materials, workmanship, and tools used in maintenance and making repairs and replacements.

Failure to perform properly may be due to one or more of the following:

1. Exchanger being dirty.
2. Failure to remove preservation materials after storage.
3. Operating conditions being different than design conditions.
4. Air or gas binding.
5. Incorrect piping connections.
6. Excessive clearances between internal parts due to corrosion.
7. Improper application.

### Storage

ITT Standard heat exchangers are protected against the elements during shipment. If they cannot be installed and put into operation immediately upon receipt at the jobsite, certain precautions are necessary to prevent deterioration during storage. Responsibility for integrity of the heat exchangers must be assumed by the user. ITT Standard will not be responsible for damage, corrosion or other deterioration of heat exchanger equipment during transit and storage.

Good storage practices are important, considering the high costs of repair or replacement, and the possible delays for items which require long lead times for manufacture. The following suggested practices are provided solely as a convenience to the user, who shall make his own decision on whether to use all or any of them.

1. On receipt of the heat exchanger, inspect for shipping damage to all protective covers. If damage is evident, inspect for possible contamination and replace protective covers as required. If damage is extensive, notify the carrier immediately.

2. If the heat exchanger is not to be placed in immediate service, take precautions to prevent rusting or contamination.

3. Heat exchangers for oil service, made of ferrous materials, may be pressure-tested with oil at the factory. However, the residual oil coating on the inside surfaces of the exchanger does not preclude the possibility of rust formation. Upon receipt, fill these exchangers with appropriate oil or coat them with a corrosion prevention compound for storage. These heat exchangers have a large warning decal, indicating that they should be protected with oil.

4. The choice of preservation of interior surfaces during storage for other service applications depends upon your system requirements and economics. Only when included in the original purchase order specifications will specific preservation be incorporated prior to shipment from the factory.

5. Remove any accumulations of dirt, water, ice or snow and wipe dry before moving exchangers into indoor storage. If unit was not filled with oil or other preservative, open drain plugs to remove any accumulated moisture, then reseal. Accumulation of moisture usually indicates rusting has already started and remedial action should be taken.

6. Store under cover in a heated area, if possible. The ideal storage environment for heat exchangers and accessories is indoors, above grade, in a dry, low-humidity atmosphere which is sealed to prevent entry of blowing dust, rain or snow. Maintain temperatures between 70°F and 105°F (wide temperature swings may cause condensation and “sweating” of steel parts). Cover windows to prevent temperature variations caused by sunlight. Provide thermometers and humidity indicators at several points, and maintain atmosphere at 40% relative humidity or lower.

7. In tropical climates, it may be necessary to use trays of renewable dessicant (such as silica gel), or portable dehumidifiers, to remove moisture from the air in the storage enclosure. Thermostatically controlled portable heaters (vented to outdoors) may be required to maintain even air temperatures inside the enclosure.

8. Inspect heat exchangers and accessories frequently while they are in storage. Start a log to record results of inspections and maintenance performed while units are in storage. A typical log entry should include, for each component, at least the following:

   a. Date
   b. Inspector’s name
   c. Identification of unit or item
   d. Location
   e. Condition of paint or coating
   f. Condition of interior
   g. Is free moisture present?
   h. Has dirt accumulated?
   i. Corrective steps taken
To locate ruptured or corroded tubes or leaking joints between tubes and tubesheets, the following procedure is recommended:

• Remove tube side channel covers or bonnets.
• Pressurize the shell side of the exchanger with a cold fluid, preferably water.
• Observe tube joints and tube ends for indication of test fluid leakage.

With certain styles of exchangers, it will be necessary to buy or make a test ring to seal off the space between the floating tubesheet and inside shell diameter to apply the test in paragraph 13. Consult your nearest ITT Standard sales representative for reference drawings showing installation of a test ring in your heat exchanger.

To tighten a leaking tube joint, use a suitable parallel roller tube expander.

• Do not roll tubes beyond the back face of the tubesheet. Maximum rolling depth should be tubesheet thickness minus 1/8”.
• Do not re-roll tubes that are not leaking since this needlessly thins the tube wall.

It is recommended that when a heat exchanger is dismantled, new gaskets be used in reassembly.

• Composition gaskets become brittle and dried out in service and do not provide an effective seal when reused.
• Metal or metal jacketed gaskets in initial compression match the contact surfaces and tend to work-harden and cannot be recompressed on reuse.

Use of new bolting in conformance with dimension and ASTM specifications of the original design is recommended where frequent dismantling is encountered.

CAUTION:
Do not remove channel covers, shell covers, floating head covers or bonnets until all pressure in the heat exchanger has been relieved and both shell side and tube side are completely drained.

CAUTION:
Since many of the removable components of the heat exchanger, particularly in the larger sizes, are too heavy for people to handle, care must be used to take this weight with proper rigging to avoid injury. Wear hard hats and safety shoes as required.

CAUTION:
Do not thread rods or cables through tubes of a heat exchanger equipped with ITT Standard Amatran® tubes, or any with internal fins.

CAUTION:
When the heat exchanger is cleaned, it is important that full characteristics of the fouling material and the cleaning agent be known and care exercised in handling them according to instructions. Use eye protection to prevent damage to your eyes. Wear a respirator when required.

CAUTION:
Do not blow out heat exchangers with air when the normal process fluids or the cleaning fluids being handled are inflammable.
Installation at Jobsite

1. If you have maintained the heat exchanger in storage, thoroughly inspect it prior to installation. Make sure it is thoroughly cleaned to remove all preservation materials unless stored full of the same oil being used in the system, or the coating is soluble in the lubricating system oil.

2. If the heat exchanger was oil-tested by ITT Standard and your purchase order did not specify otherwise, the oil used was Tectyl® 754, a light-bodied oil which is soluble in most lubricating oils. Where special preservations were applied, you should consult the preservative manufacturer's product information data for removal instructions.

3. When installing, set heat exchanger level and square so that pipe connections can be made without forcing.

4. Before piping up, inspect all openings in the heat exchanger for foreign material. Remove all wooden plugs, bags of desiccant and shipping covers immediately prior to installing. Do not expose internal passages of the heat exchanger to the atmosphere since moisture or harmful contaminants may enter the unit and cause severe damage to the system due to freezing and/or corrosion.

5. After piping is complete, if support cradles or feet are fixed to the heat exchanger, loosen foundation bolts at one end of the exchanger to allow free movement. Oversized holes in support cradles or feet are provided for this purpose.

6. If heat exchanger shell is equipped with a bellows-type expansion joint, remove shipping supports per instructions.

Operation

1. Be sure entire system is clean before starting operation to prevent plugging of tubes or shell side passages with refuse. The use of strainers or settling tanks in pipelines leading to the heat exchanger is recommended.

2. Open vent connections before starting up.

3. Start operating gradually. See Table 1 for suggested start-up and shut-down procedures for most applications. If in doubt, consult the nearest ITT Standard representative for specific instructions.

4. After the system is completely filled with the operating fluids and all air has been vented, close all manual vent connections.

5. Re-tighten bolting on all gasketed or packed joints after the heat exchanger has reached operating temperatures to prevent leaks and gasket failures. Standard published torque values do not apply to packed end joints.

6. Do not operate the heat exchanger under pressure and temperature conditions in excess of those specified on the nameplate.

7. To guard against water hammer, drain condensate from steam heat exchangers and similar apparatus both when starting up and shutting down.

8. Drain all fluids when shutting down to eliminate possible freezing and corroding.

9. In all installations there should be no pulsation of fluids, since this causes vibration and will result in reduced operating life.

10. Under no circumstances is the heat exchanger to be operated at a flowrate greater than that shown on the design specifications. Excessive flows can cause vibration and severely damage the heat exchanger tube bundle.

11. Heat exchangers that are out of service for extended periods of time should be protected against corrosion as described in the storage requirements for new heat exchangers.

Heat exchangers that are out of service for short periods and use water as the flowing medium should be thoroughly drained and blown dry with warm air, if
possible. If this is not practical, the water should be circulated through the heat exchanger on a daily basis to prevent stagnant water conditions that can ultimately precipitate corrosion.

RECOMMENDED START-UP AND SHUT-DOWN PROCEDURES

CAUTION: Every effort should be made to avoid subjecting the unit to thermal shock, overpressure, and/or hydraulic hammer, since these conditions may impose stresses that exceed the mechanical strength of the unit or the system in which it is installed which may result in leaks and/or other damage to the unit and/or system.

**General Comments:**
1.) In all start-up and shut-down operations, fluid flows should be regulated so as to avoid thermal shocking the unit regardless of whether the unit is of either a removable or non-removable type construction.

2.) For fixed tubesheet (non-removable bundle) type units where the tube side fluid cannot be shut down, it is recommended that: a) A bypass arrangement be incorporated in the system; and, b) the tube side fluid be bypassed before the shell side fluid is shut down.

3.) Extreme caution should be taken on insulated units where fluid flows are terminated and then restarted. Since the metal parts could remain at high temperatures for an extended period, severe thermal shock could occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heat Exchanger Type of Construction</th>
<th>Fluid Location &amp; Relative Temp.</th>
<th>Start-Up Procedure</th>
<th>Shut-Down Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shell Side</td>
<td>Tube Side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Type of Fluid</td>
<td>Rel. Temp.</td>
<td>Type of Fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Tubesheet (Non-Removable Bundle)</td>
<td>Liquid</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Condensing Gas (e.g., steam)</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liquid</td>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>Liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liquid</td>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>Gas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| U-Tube                             | Liquid | Hot | Liquid | Cold | Start cold fluid first, then start hot fluid gradually. | Shut down hot fluid first, then cold fluid. |
| Packed Floating Head               | Condensing Gas (e.g., steam) | Hot | Liquid | or Gas | Cold | Start cold fluid first, then start hot fluid gradually. | Shut down cold fluid first, then shut down hot fluid gradually. |
| Packed Floating Tubesheet          | Gas | Hot | Liquid | Cold | Start cold fluid first, then start hot fluid gradually. | Shut down hot fluid first, then cold fluid. |
| Internal Floating Head (All these types have Removable Bundles) | Liquid | Cold | Liquid | Hot | Start cold fluid first, then start hot fluid gradually. | Shut down hot fluid first, then cold fluid. |

| TABLE 1                           |                     |                    |                     |
Clean exchangers subject to fouling (scale, sludge deposits, etc.) periodically, depending on specific conditions. A light sludge or scale coating on either side of the tube greatly reduces its effectiveness. A marked increase in pressure drop and/or reduction in performance usually indicates cleaning is necessary. Since the difficulty of cleaning increases rapidly as the scale thickens or deposits increase, the intervals between cleanings should not be excessive.

Neglecting to keep tubes clean may result in random tube plugging. Consequent overheating or cooling of the plugged tubes, as compared to surrounding tubes, will cause physical damage and leaking tubes due to differential thermal expansion of the metals.

To clean or inspect the inside of the tubes, remove only the necessary tube side channel covers or bonnets, depending on type of exchanger construction.

If the heat exchanger is equipped with sacrificial anodes or plates, replace these as required.

To clean or inspect the outside of the tubes, it may be necessary to remove the tube bundle. (Fixed tubesheet exchanger bundles are non-removable).

When removing tube bundles from heat exchangers for inspection or cleaning, exercise care to see that they are not damaged by improper handling.

1. The weight of the tube bundle should not be supported on individual tubes but should be carried by the tubesheets, support or baffle plates or on blocks contoured to the periphery of the tube bundles.
2. Do not handle tube bundles with hooks or other tools which might damage tubes. Move tube bundles on cradles or skids.
3. To withdraw tube bundles, pass rods through two or more of the tubes and take the load on the floating tubesheet.

Rods should be threaded at both ends, provided with nuts, and should pass through a steel bearing plate at each end of the bundle.

Insert a soft wood filler board between the bearing plate and tubesheet face to prevent damage to the tube ends.

Screw forged steel eyebolts into both bearing plates for pulling and lifting.

As an alternate to the rods, thread a steel cable through one tube and return through another tube.

A hardwood spreader block must be inserted between the cable and each tubesheet to prevent damage to the tube ends.

Some tubes have inserts or longitudinal fins and can be damaged by cleaning when mechanical means are employed. Clean these types of tubes chemically or consult the nearest ITT Standard representative for the recommended method of cleaning.

If the scale is hard and the above methods are not effective, use a mechanical means. Neither the inside nor the outside of the tube should be hammered with a metallic tool. If it is necessary to use scrapers, they should not be sharp enough to cut the metal of the tubes. Take extra care when employing scrapers to prevent tube damage.

Do not drag bundles, since baffles or support plates may become easily bent. Avoid any damage to baffles so that the heat exchanger will function properly.

Some suggested methods of cleaning either the shell side or tube side are listed below:

- Circulating hot wash oil or light distillate through tube side or shell side will usually effectively remove sludge or similar soft deposits.
- Soft salt deposits may be washed out by circulating hot fresh water.
- Some commercial cleaning compounds such as “Oakite” or “Dowell” may be effective in removing more stubborn deposits. Use in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Some tubes have inserts or longitudinal fins and can be damaged by cleaning when mechanical means are employed. Clean these types of tubes chemically or consult the nearest ITT Standard representative for the recommended method of cleaning.

- If the scale is hard and the above methods are not effective, use a mechanical means. Neither the inside nor the outside of the tube should be hammered with a metallic tool. If it is necessary to use scrapers, they should not be sharp enough to cut the metal of the tubes. Take extra care when employing scrapers to prevent tube damage.

Do not attempt to clean tubes by blowing steam through individual tubes. This overheats the individual tube and results in severe expansion strains and leaking tube-to-tubesheet joints.

Table 2 shows safe loads for steel rods and eyebolts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steel Rods</th>
<th>Steel Eyebolts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tube Size</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rod Size</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8”</td>
<td>3/8”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4”</td>
<td>1/2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” or larger</td>
<td>5/8”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-1/2”</td>
<td>1-1/2”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**
If paint deterioration begins, as evidenced by discoloration or light rusting, consider touch-up or repainting. If the unit is painted with our standard shop enamel, areas of light rust may be wire brushed and touched-up with any good quality air-drying synthetic enamel. Units painted with special paints (when specified on customers’ orders) may require special techniques for touch-up or repair. Obtain specific information from the paint manufacturer. Painted steel units should never be permitted to rust or deteriorate to a point where their strength will be impaired. But a light surface rusting, on steel units which will be re-painted after installation, will not generally cause any harm. (See Items 3 and 4 for internal surface preservation.)

**CAUTION:**
Provide fire extinguishers, fire alarms or telephone to protect building and equipment against fire damage. Be sure that the building and storage practices meet all local, state, and federal fire and safety codes!

### Installation Planning

1. On removable bundle heat exchangers, provide sufficient clearance at the stationary end to permit the removal of the tube bundle from the shell. On the floating head end, provide space to permit removal of the shell cover and floating head cover.

2. On fixed bundle heat exchangers, provide sufficient clearance at one end to permit removal and replacement of tubes and at the other end provide sufficient clearance to permit tube rolling.

3. Provide valves and bypasses in the piping system so that both the shell side and tube side may be bypassed to permit isolation of the heat exchanger for inspection, cleaning and repairs.

4. Provide convenient means for frequent cleaning as suggested under maintenance.

5. Provide thermometer wells and pressure gauge pipe taps in all piping to and from the heat exchanger, located as close to the heat exchanger as possible.

6. Provide necessary air vent valves for the heat exchanger so that it can be purged to prevent or relieve vapor or gas binding on both the tube side and shell side.

7. Provide adequate supports for mounting the heat exchanger so that it will not settle and cause piping strains. Foundation bolts should be set accurately. In concrete footings, pipe sleeves at least one pipe size larger than the bolt diameter slipped over the bolt and cast in place are best for this purpose as they allow the bolt centers to be adjusted after the foundation has set.

8. Install proper liquid level controls and relief valves and liquid level and temperature alarms, etc.

9. Install gauge glasses or liquid level alarms in all vapor or gas spaces to indicate any failure occurring in the condensate drain system and to prevent flooding of the heat exchanger.

10. Install a surge drum upstream from the heat exchanger to guard against pulsation of fluids caused by pumps, compressors or other equipment.

11. Do not pipe drain connections to a common closed manifold; it makes it more difficult to determine that the exchanger has been thoroughly drained.
Warranty

WARRANTY OF SELLER’S PRODUCTS
Except where a different express warranty has been issued with respect to a particular product, no warranty of any kind, express or implied, is extended by the seller to any person or persons other than its direct Buyers. To direct Buyers, the Seller warrants only that it will furnish by freight a replacement for, or at its option repair, any product of its manufacture or part or portion thereof, proved to its satisfaction to be defective in material or workmanship under normal use and service (i) within a period of six (6) months from date of shipment as to those parts which contain perishable elastomers or (ii) within one year from the date all other equipment or part thereof is first placed in use, or two years from the date of shipment, whichever shall be less.

The Seller shall have no responsibility for the performance of any product sold by it under conditions varying materially from those under which such product is usually tested under existing industry standards, nor for any damage to the product from abrasion, erosion, corrosion, deterioration or the like due to abnormal temperatures or corrosive fluids or the influence of foreign matter or energy, or flow induced vibration caused by associated equipment or external influences; nor for the design or operation of any system of which any such product may be made a part or for the suitability of any such product for any particular application. The Seller shall not be liable for any cost or expense, including, without limitation, labor expense, in connection with the removal or replacement of alleged defective equipment or any part or portion thereof nor for incidental or consequential damages of any kind, nor under any circumstances for any damage beyond the price of the goods sold. Any freight allowance in connection with a replacement will be on the same terms as were applicable to the original sale, except that a replacement for a product or part or portion thereof which is proved to the Seller’s satisfaction to be defective in material or workmanship as provided herein above, will in any event be furnished with freight (but not local cartage) allowed, within the country of origin, to the first destination. Any substitution of parts not of Seller’s manufacture or not authorized by Seller, or any modification, tampering, or manipulation of Seller’s product, shall void the warranty.

Other Warranties — The foregoing warranty is in lieu of all other warranties of any kind, express or implied, and of all other obligations or liabilities, on the part of the Seller. The Seller neither assumes, nor does it authorize any other person to assume on its behalf, any other liability in connection with the sale of its products.

Seller expressly disclaims the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

Goods of Other Manufacturers — Goods of other manufacturers sold by the Seller are not warranted except by express warranties which may be issued in writing from time to time with respect to a particular product or a particular sale; but the Seller will endeavor to secure for its direct Buyers the benefits of warranties extended by the manufacturers of such goods sold but not manufactured by the Seller.