



## Service Bulletin

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# Green Oil Contamination

September 2007

CTV-SVB33A-EN

### Informational Service Bulletin

This bulletin is for general information only, no material or labor is authorized.

### Units Affected

CVHE, CVHF, CVHG, CDHF, and CDHG chillers produced before September 1, 2007.

### Introduction

There have been reports of nuisance oil filter plugging associated with a green tinted contamination in the oil sump.

### Discussion

Green tinted oil is a phenomenon occasionally encountered in recently commissioned chillers. The root cause has been traced to a "finning" lubricant used by the tube vendor when they machine the enhancements onto the evaporator and condenser tubes.

As the chiller operates the eductor driven oil return from the evaporator will eventually bring the lubricant residue from the tubes to the oil sump. By itself, the lubricant residue does no harm to the unit. However, once in the oil sump the lubricant residue can react with refrigerant, oil, moisture, small amounts of free copper, etc. and can form salts. It is these salts that give the oil its greenish tint.

Minor amounts of this contamination will cause a light green discoloration of the oil but will not cause filter plugging. The light green discoloration of the oil does not affect the operation of the chiller.

Moderate amounts of contamination will cause a green discoloration of the oil and one or two plugged oil filters.

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Larger amounts of contamination will cause a darker green discoloration of the oil and can result in multiple plugged oil filters.

## Corrective Action

If only small or moderate levels of contamination are present and oil filter plugging does not occur, then the normal recommended oil and filter change at ~1000 hrs of operation (not at factory expense) will resolve the issue and return the sump to a normal color.

If higher levels of green contamination are present and the unit also experiences oil pressure fluctuations and filter plugging prior to the recommended ~1000 hr oil and filter change, then the recommended ~1000 hr oil and filter change (not at factory expense) can be performed earlier to resolve the issue.

In severe cases where green oil and nuisance oil filter plugging persists, even after the recommended oil and filter change has been performed, it may require that an additional one or even two more oil and filter changes may be needed.

## Questions

For general questions regarding this bulletin contact the CenTraVac Product Technical Service department in La Crosse at [TechService@trane.com](mailto:TechService@trane.com).

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Literature Order Number	CTV-SVB33A-EN
Date	September 2007
Supersedes	New

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