

DATE: January 20, 1988

TO: Division of Shellfish Sanitation Staff

THROUGH: Eric H. Bartsch, P.E., Director
Office of Water Programs

FROM: Cloyde W. Wiley, Director
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

SUBJECT: Plants - Procedure - Compliance - Seams of Food Contact Surfaces

Part II 13.b and d. and Appendix B of the NSSP manual refer to the construction of seams located in the food contact surfaces of processing equipment. These sections require that the seams of food contact surfaces, including those of blower tanks and skimmers, be welded seams. Silver soldered seams do not meet manual specifications.

Since some existing plants have been certified with blowers and skimmers having silver soldered seams, these will continue to be approved for use in Virginia. However, when a plant changes ownership or leaseeship, the properly welded seams will be required. There will be no allowance for improper seams when plant changes ownership or leaseeship, and thus all improper seams must be properly repaired on the equipment, or the equipment must be entirely replaced before the plant can be certified.

All new plants will be required to provide properly welded seams on all equipment.

Equipment with lead soldered seams in existing plants should be replaced or brought into compliance as soon as possible.

CWW:REC:jmt