

## Central's Model GB Series Fire Sprinklers

### *Sprinklers With "O-Ring" Seals Under Investigation By Underwriters Laboratories*

#### **Overview**

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is investigating Model GB series fire sprinklers manufactured by Central Sprinkler Co., of Lansdale, PA. The sprinklers under investigation have "O-ring" water seals. The investigation follows a number of field reports of leaking, encrusted, or corroded sprinkler heads. In addition, UL's laboratory test results have identified heads that fail to activate at high water pressures. These conditions could prevent the sprinklers from operating as designed in the event of a fire. To date, however, UL has not received any reports of these models failing to operate in a fire.

#### **Sprinkler Head Models**

The Model GB series sprinklers under scrutiny were introduced in 1988 and are identified as GB, GB-ALPHA, GB-J, GB-QR, GB-EC, GB-RS, GB-20, GB-20QR, GBR, GB-R1, GB-R2, GBR-LF, GB4, GB4-EC, GB4-FR, GB4-QREC, BB1, BB2, BB3, SD1, SD2, SD3, HIP, ROC, LF, and WS. (Refer to Figures A and B.) Figure A shows a GB sprinkler head that has an "O-ring" seal within the waterway outlet. Note the flat shape of the cap. Figure B shows a sprinkler head that is *not* equipped with an "O-ring". This photo is a GB sprinkler with a disc spring seal at the waterway outlet. Note the conical shape of the cap. Note that due to recent design changes, *current* versions of these models do not have "O-ring" water seals.

#### **Building Owner Action**

1. Immediately replace all sprinkler heads that are leaking, encrusted, or corroded.
2. Send a representative sample of sprinkler heads to UL to be tested to ensure that the sprinklers operate as designed. Although the Model GB series fire sprinklers are not under an official recall, UL's laboratory test results have identified heads that fail to activate at high water pressures. For details on selecting and packaging sprinklers for testing, contact a reputable sprinkler contractor or refer to NFPA 25 *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*.

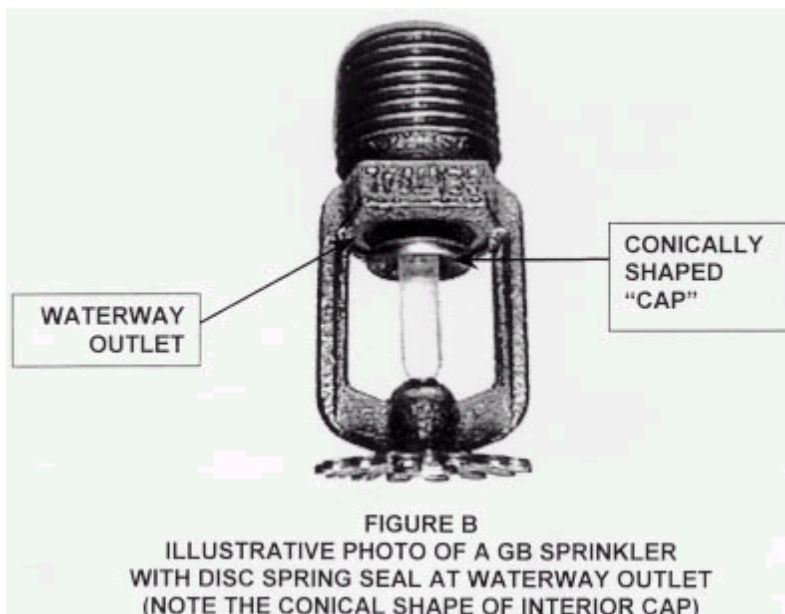
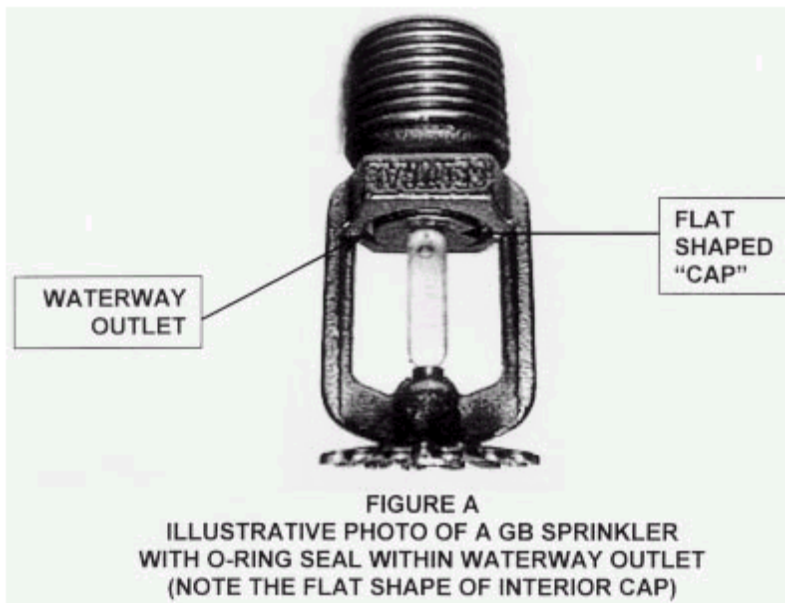
#### **Sending Samples to UL**

Samples may be sent to Mr. Kerry Bell at Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062 (<http://www.ul.com>). During the course of UL's investigation, there will be no cost for laboratory tests; however, building owners are responsible for expenses associated with the removal, replacement, shipping, and handling of the sprinklers.

Building owners interested in specific information regarding these sprinklers, including the manufacturer's warranty, should contact the Central Sprinkler Company, 451 Cannon Avenue, Lansdale, PA (1-800-523-6512), or visit Central's website at <http://www.tyco-central.com>. For further information on Central's Model GB series fire sprinklers, visit Underwriters Laboratories website at <http://www.ul.com>.

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Photos of sprinklers with and without "O-ring" seals



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