

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Locking-Lever Handles for UL-Approved NIBCO[®] Ball Valves

Customers frequently request a UL approved ball valve for LP-gas service with a locking-lever handle. NIBCO does not offer a UL approved ball valve with a locking-lever handle. NIBCO does offer valves with standard lever handles (i.e. T580-70-UL, T585-70-UL, T590-Y-UL, and T595-Y-UL). Although these valves can physically have a locking-lever handle assembled on to them, NIBCO has never submitted these valves for UL approval with any form of locking-lever handle. Retro-fitting such a handle on the valve in the field would, technically, violate the approval.

The governing standard, UL 842 Valves for Flammable Fluids, does not restrict the use of a locking device on a valve so approved. It would not be a violation of the standard, per se, to equip a valve with such a handle; however, it would violate NIBCO's approval with UL, since NIBCO has not submitted the valve with such a handle for UL's examination.

Ultimately, the authority-having-jurisdiction (AHJ) is the final arbiter for such a situation. It seems as though the impetus behind these requests is the AHJ, specifying that such handles be outfitted on valves used in flammable liquid service.

In summation, NIBCO is required by UL to ship from our facilities products as they were tested and approved by UL. Suitability of such modifications after such products have reached the customer fall within the responsibility of the AHJ.