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Established 1975

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Fact Sheet

Dear Customer:

Clarification of application for microwave ovens, **consumer** versus **commercial**. We have put some facts on together for you to consider when making your determination on which ovens to purchase.

SUMMARY – reasons not to use a consumer microwave oven in a commercial application

No NSF approvals on consumer type of M/W ovens and therefore increased liability.

Failure to meet CDHR (FCR 21 SS 1030.10) requirements (federal law) on microwave leakage for human safety.

Consumer M/W ovens do not meet UL requirements for commercial application; there for consumer microwaves do not have commercial liability insurance. If a consumer microwave oven should inadvertently catch fire and cause damage to a Hospital, Commercial offices or Restaurant facility. The insurance company has no recourse to the manufacture of consumer M/W due to none compliance. The insurance company will then use this to deny and clams for damages to a facility.

High component stress and therefore shorter life expectancy

Differences between consumer microwave ovens and commercial microwave ovens

FACT

All commercial microwave ovens have NSF approvals (National Sanitary Foundation). This means that ovens are constructed with materials that will remain sanitary for commercial food preparation when cleaned in the recommended manner. This is not true with consumer microwave ovens.

FACT

Consumer microwave ovens typically (almost never) carry the NSF approval because of the costs involved making the ovens meet the guidelines for NSF approval.

FACT

Laws requiring microwave ovens in commercial establishments vary from state to state. However, most commercial establishments (including hospital and health care facilities) specify commercial microwave ovens simply because they carry an NSF approval which takes care of any question of sanitary conditions and therefore reduces liability on their part.

FACT

Commercial microwave ovens are built significantly more rugged than consumer microwave ovens in order to take the abuse typical in commercial food establishments. This means the cooling; wiring and general component robustness is greatly increased in a commercial microwave oven, as compared to a consumer model. The components are not stressed to the limit of their operational safety margin like the components of a consumer microwave oven are.

The typical consumer microwave is used under 10 minutes each day with 2-3 door openings. The typical commercial microwave oven used in a commercial application is used 4-6 hours each day with hundreds of door openings. One can see why the commercial microwave ovens are built more rugged.

High component stress and therefore shorter life expectancy

FACT

The Center for Device and Radiological Health (CDRH), a branch of the Food & Drug Administration is responsible for the regulation of all devices that emit microwave radiation.

FACT

The microwave leakage limits set by CDRH are: 1.0 milliwatt/cm² prior to delivery to the end user and 5.0 milliwatt/cm² at any time there after measured at a distance of 5 cm from any exterior surface.

FACT

Our 36 + years of experience tells us that even after years in the field, we would not expect significant increases in leakage because of the rugged construction of the commercial ovens, unless of course, the door mechanism is damaged.

FACT

The CDRH defines a “microwave oven” in CFR 21 SS 1030.10 as a device designed to heat, cook, or dry food through the application of electromagnetic energy at frequencies assigned by the FCC in the normal ISM heating bands between 890 MHz to 6,000 MHz. As defined in this standard, “microwave ovens” are limited to those manufactured for use in homes, restaurants, food vending or service establishments.

Please do not hesitate to call Microwave Specialties Inc., if there are any questions,
Toll free at 1-800-332-2448

Best Regards
Microwave Specialties Inc.