

ROPER APPLIANCE

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

DATE: DECEMBER 22, 1986

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: JIM NELSON

SUBJECT: MEETING AT SEARS TOWER ON RANGE STABILITY 12-19-86

ATTENDEES:

SEARS

ROPER

Dick Galante (Contract Sales)
Roger Ibach (Field Installation)
Tony Kloska (D/817 Lab.)
Joe Mazzia (Home Delivery)
Dick Messinger (Field Service)
Shu Miyazaki (D/817 Lab.)

Jim Nelson
Dave Noseworthy
Charlie Roberts

NOTE: Pat DeDabbio did not attend, but the meeting was reviewed with her subsequently.

This meeting was set up as a "brainstorming session" to try to find a solution to the range stability problem. The situation to be brainstormed included both hardware and how to implement the installation of hardware within the Sears delivery system.

This program has been stalled since spring of this year. The original plans to ship the hold down bracket with each range were put on hold because Sears found they could not handle the installation through their delivery systems at a practical cost. Meanwhile, they have been shipping hold down brackets with Athens-built products; in most cases the brackets are not being installed.

We have been pursuing design changes which would allow the range to pass proposed new stability requirements without attachment to any structure. The only promising approach involves both breakaway hinges and the addition of sizeable concrete counterweights to all ranges.

After reviewing various alternatives and ideas, it was agreed that attachment to the building structure is the most practical approach.

The self-locating leveling leg retainer bracket screwed to the wall or floor (C-K953, 334349) was judged to be practical in many cases. However, there is need for another approach if the range is put in place without installing the bracket and stabilizing means is added later.

We stated that we could design a clip arrangement that attaches the top of the body side or burner box bottom flange to the countertop with a low profile head screw. This arrangement would have to allow the range to be pulled forward without the use of tools to meet Agency requirements. It would be useable only on lift-up top models and only in cases where a suitable countertop is adjacent to one side of the range. In other cases, the leveling leg bracket would have to be used.

It was agreed that the broad approach would be as follows:

1. Roper will pack with each range both the leg hold-down-bracket and a top clip, along with suitable fasteners.
2. Sears will encourage the customer to install one or the other of these. Where the customer desires, they will make installation available, at a cost that will vary with the location. This will be added to the material that the salesman is to explain to the customer at point of sale.
3. Where local conditions allow, the bracket will be installed by the delivery person/installer.
4. Where contracts or local codes do not allow the delivery person to install, Sears may have their installation people both deliver and install.
5. For Contract Sales application, who installs the brackets will be part of the contract arrangements. The brackets will be available in bulk through some arrangement, where desired.
6. Brackets will be available separately as a repair part in cases where the customer moves and takes the range with them.

The above would apply to freestanding ranges and slide-ins. Built-in product already has means to attach it to the structure. The downdraft slide-in requires a unique arrangement, but since it involves installation work anyway, this is not a problem.

The outline of the meeting was discussed with Pat DelDebbio, and she wishes us to proceed as rapidly as possible.

We are to work up the specific designs, costs, timing, literature, packing, etc. and review with her in January.



Jim Wilson, Manager,
Gas & Electric Products

JKN85/kkc

~~pc~~ ~~Larry Beasley~~
~~Larry Betourne~~
~~Gene Bortorff~~
~~John Ciaccio~~
~~Jim Cole~~
~~Jerry Cope~~
~~Dwight Dennis~~
~~Robert Fey~~
~~Robert Gehrke~~
~~Tom Giles~~

~~San Gilson~~
~~Wayne Harris~~
~~Jave Noseworthy~~
~~Jim Patchett~~
~~Rudy Peterson~~
~~Clarence Pycha~~
~~Charlie Roberts~~
~~Nic Schuerman~~
~~Kin Smith~~
~~Harty Vink~~
~~John Weiss~~