

INTERMIXING & INTERCHANGING OF TWO FERRULE TUBE FITTINGS. IS IT SAFE?

INTERMIX

The combination of two or more manufacturers' sub-components (nut, front & rear ferrules and body) to form a tube fitting.

DEFINITION

INTERCHANGE

The swapping of pre-swaged nut & ferrules from one manufacturer into the fitting body of another manufacturer.

THE INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Numerous manufacturers of Tube fittings claim that their fittings can be intermixed and/or interchanged with those of other manufacturers without compromising performance, reliability or safety.

This is not the case! A published independent research document known as the Seymour report (Journal of Engineering Design, Vol. 10, No. 4, 1999) warns against the dangers of intermixing and interchanging of manufacturer's tube fittings and condemns it as an unsound engineering practice.

You can read a summary of the document by using the below link

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/095448299261272>

THE HSE STANDPOINT

The HSE states in their Loss Of Containment Manual that
"it is not permissible to interchange sub-components of different designs or types of Tube Fittings."



Swagelok

SWAGELOK'S VIEW

NEVER INTERMIX/INTERCHANGE FITTINGS

It is a poor practice to intermix/interchange tube fittings from different manufacturers. There is no industrywide commercial design standard for fittings, meaning:

- Each manufacturer follows its own standards and processes
- An intermixed/interchanged fitting is essentially a new untested design
- The user accepts full responsibility for performance and outcome
- Voids Swagelok's Limited Lifetime Warranty

SUMMARY

Avoid possible performance issues, such as:
Leaks, Extra Cost and Safety Concerns

**NEVER INTERMIX/INTERCHANGE TUBE FITTINGS.
NO MANUFACTURER CAN RELIABLY AND UNIFORMLY
REPLICATE THE PRODUCTS OF ANOTHER.**

Swagelok London

