



## Product Alert

February 18, 2016

### **Type of Notification: Performance Related Concern**

FM Approvals has been made aware that, in areas where the sprinkler system water supply contains contaminated, corrosive and/or scaling water conditions, the Reliable Model B and BX Deluge and Preaction valves as well as the Model LDX Dry Pipe valve may become restricted preventing proper function of the sprinkler system. Reference attached Technical Bulletin issued by Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc.

**Company (As Listed in the Approval Guide):** Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc.

**Address:** 1470 Smith Grove Road, Liberty, SC 29657

**Contact information:** 1-800-557-2726 or e-mail at [technicalservices@reliablesprinkler.com](mailto:technicalservices@reliablesprinkler.com)

**Product Identity:** Deluge, Preaction and Dry Pipe valves

**Model:** Reliable Models B, BX & LDX in sizes 4 and 6 inch NPS (100 mm and 150 mm)

**Date Codes Affected:** Valves manufactured between 1975 and 2008

**FM Approval status:** All Model B and BX Deluge and Preaction valves manufactured between 1975 and 2008 as well as all Model LDX Dry Pipe valves manufactured on or after December 31, 1999 are FM Approved.

**Hazard involved:** The Model B, BX & LDX valves manufactured during the affected dates have valve chamber assemblies that may be susceptible to restriction, preventing actuation of the Deluge, Preaction or Dry Pipe valve. This could prevent the sprinkler system from operating correctly and should be addressed immediately.

Further technical information regarding the Reliable Models B & BX Deluge and Preaction valves and the Model LDX Dry Pipe valves can be found at the following web address:

[www.reliablesprinkler.com](http://www.reliablesprinkler.com)

If you suspect you are in possession of an affected valve discussed above and bearing the FM Approvals certification marking, please bring it to the attention of:

**Antonio Pires**

**FM Approvals, Quality Department**

**Norwood, MA, USA**

**+1 (1) 781-255-4825**

**Email: [antonio.pires@fmapprovals.com](mailto:antonio.pires@fmapprovals.com)**

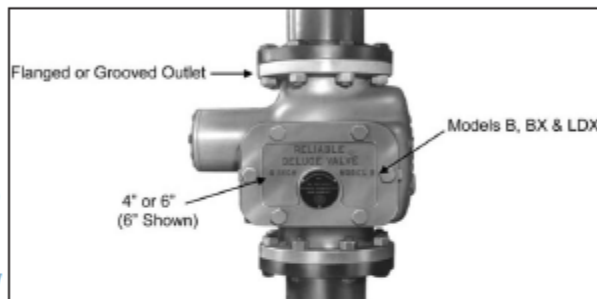
## Model B, & BX Deluge Valves Model LDX Deluge/Dry Pipe Valves 4" (100 mm) and 6" (150 mm)

January 18, 2016

The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc., is one of the world's largest quality producers of automatic fire sprinklers and sprinkler system control equipment.

From approximately 1975 through 2008, Reliable manufactured 4" (100 mm) and 6" (150 mm) deluge valve Models B, BX & LDX (shown here).

These valves are hydraulically operated, latching clapper-type valves used to control the water supply to a deluge, preaction or low pressure dry pipe system. Deluge systems use open sprinkler or nozzles as discharge outlets in the fire area, while preaction and dry pipe systems use closed sprinklers or nozzles. These valves are all subject to the quarterly and annual inspection and testing requirements of NFPA-25 (2014 Ed., Section 13.4.3). If your local water supply contains contaminated, corrosive and/or scaling water conditions, then NFPA-25 requires that these inspections/tests should be performed more frequently.



Reliable has recently become aware of situations where owners and servicers of these valves have not met their NFPA-25 inspection and testing obligations. This omission, combined with harsh water supply conditions in some geographic areas, affected the operating performance of a very small percentage of the Models B, BX and LDX valves installed. To date, successful field inspections have been performed on valves not meeting Reliable performance standards.

In order to obtain broader assurance of NFPA-25's inspection and testing obligations and to meet its standards, Reliable is announcing a field upgrade program to be performed by a licensed local contractor during a pre-scheduled annual NFPA-25 required inspection. Reliable will provide to the contractors the necessary upgrade components for the valves.

This program will start immediately. If you are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of a fire sprinkler system that uses Models B, BX or LDX valves please contact your local Reliable sales office prior to performing or scheduling an annual NFPA-25 inspection. As previously stated, Reliable will provide the replacement parts at no cost to the owners or servicers of the valves.

It should be noted that Reliable's current product line of deluge/dry valves, Models DDX and EX do NOT require this field upgrade. Only the discontinued, older Models B, BX and LDX are affected.

If you have any questions as to whether this bulletin applies to your system, please contact a qualified local fire protection contractor who can assist in making this determination. You may also contact our Technical Services group at [technicalservices@reliablesprinkler.com](mailto:technicalservices@reliablesprinkler.com) or call 1-800-55-RASCO (72726) for assistance.