



Technical Memo

I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS INFORMATION/TECHNICAL UPDATE

From Ray Griffin.

Date: 26th January 2004.

Number 10

The following technical Bulletin has been received from GLORIA

"It has come to our notice that a potentially serious situation could exist following the servicing of our cartridge operated extinguishers when the use of a plastic pulltite seal is used in addition to the recommended plastic safety pin which is specified in the manufacturers servicing instructions.

It has been reported that some servicing companies are fitting a new plastic safety pin and sealing device and also using a plastic pulltite seal, commonly used in the trade in different qualities and different plastics as well. In these cases the effort required to pull out the safety pin will, in all probability, exceed the maximum effort required (100N) to pull the pin as specified in BS EN3: 1996. Our tests have shown that under a range of operating temperatures the effort required to pull the pin could be as high as 127N at 20 degrees C. with the effort required increasing as temperature drops. Under these conditions it would be very difficult indeed to pull the pin from the valve and operate the extinguishers.

This practice not only invalidates the product approval under BS EN3 : 1996 but also invalidates the manufacturers warranty of the product because a spare part not approved by the manufacturer has been used and servicing instructions have not been followed.

This servicing procedure is not recommended and should be stopped immediately. Only manufacturer recommended spare parts should be used for servicing purposes.

It should also be noted that the recently issued BS5306-3 : 2003 standard positively calls for the safety pin to be removed and where necessary a replacement pin to be fitted. This means that a new pin and seal should be fitted when the original seal is broken when the pin is removed."

IFEDA Note

A copy of the original GLORIA bulletin will be included with the Gloria service instructions on the CD-Rom at the next update.

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