

Information Services

Portable Fire Extinguishers Information Memorandum

Subject: AFFF, Anti-freeze & Additives Use

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AFFF

Care must be taken to ensure that AFFF extinguishers are refilled using AFFF approved companies or recommended by the manufacturers. This is essential to ensure the extinguisher retains its listed fire rating.

PFOS based AFFF is now a banned substance. Disposal of this should be by high temperature incineration only.

TELOMAR based AFFF is still permitted and is in common use, but its environmental effects are under review and might lead to it being banned.

There are various types of AFFF available that are being marketed as an "Environmentally Friendly" alternative. If use of these is considered it is recommended that you check with the extinguisher manufacturer to ensure it is suitable and the fire rating will not be reduced.

Anti-freeze in water & AFFF extinguishers

It is recommended that only the extinguisher manufacturers approved anti-freeze be used. This should be fully in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Particular attention should be paid to the life span of the anti-freeze, which might vary from product to product.

It is also necessary to determine whether it will affect the extinguisher fire rating and in cases where the rating is reduced this must be brought to the attention of the Responsible Person, together with a recommendation for additional extinguishers if necessary to maintain the level of fire rating required by his fire risk assessment.

BACK

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