



Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS SERVICING/TECHNICAL ADVICE/ UPDATE

From: The National Office

Date: January 2009

Number 67

Commander Fire Extinguisher: CheckFire

Re: The Commander budget range 6 litre foam extinguishers from Check Fire, South Wales (other models may be affected).

It has been reported to the National Office that these units occasionally come with the siphon tubes half unscrewed or rolling around in the bottom of this factory filled extinguisher from China.

I have spoken with the importing company (CheckFire of South Wales) who have informed me that they believe that this is an isolated problem, specifically *“The non-conformance occurred on just few from one batch of 500 purchased. The siphon tube became detached during transport. This has now been rectified by the application of a thread locking glue on the siphon tube as a ‘belt and braces’ measure. The customers that purchased larger quantities of this batch have been asked to return them for inspection: out of this number returned only two units have been found to be defective. At an annual service these units can be easily checked by gently shaking them. The engineer can clearly hear if the dip tube is loose. The date of manufacture and batch number is stamped at the bottom of the cylinder under the plastic skirt and is displayed as 08/07 batch number 000075.”*

I would suggest that simply shaking them is not enough to identify a dip tube that is only partially unscrewed: I would strongly advise that all units need to be checked. The only way to ascertain with certainty that the unit will work correctly when required is to invert, discharge and dismantle. Then, having carried out what amounts to a 5 year service it is a good idea to mark the service label in some way to indicate it has been checked (for this specific problem) and passed.....

It is difficult to actually say how many units may be affected - it may be a few it may be more, the only safe procedure to adopt is to be suspicious of all.

I would be grateful if any members find any instances of this fault they let me know - I will then be able to relay the information to the distributor.

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