

**MONTREAL PROTOCOL  
ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete  
THE OZONE LAYER**

**REPORT OF THE  
HALONS TECHNICAL OPTIONS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 2018**

**TECHNICAL NOTE #1 – REVISION 5  
FIRE PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES TO HALONS, HCFCs  
AND HFCs**



## **HTOC Technical Note #1, Rev. 5**

### **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

Report of the  
Halons Technical Options Committee

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#### **FIRE PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES TO HALONS, HCFCs AND HFCs**

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### Preface

Technical Note #1, *Fire Protection Alternatives to Halons, HCFCs and HFCs*, supplements Chapter 3, of the same title, of the 2018 Assessment Reports of the UNEP Halon Technical Options Committee (HTOC). The Halon Technical Options Committee elected to take this approach as much of the information that, while important to understand when developing strategies for selecting alternatives to halons, has been largely reported in prior editions of Assessment Reports. The Assessment Reports contain important new updates on evolving technologies, but this usually forms only a small portion of the chapter content. As such, it was deemed by the HTOC to make the *Alternatives* subject a stand-alone document that is referenced by future Assessment Reports. By this approach those having particular interest in the technical aspects of the *Alternatives* subject can access a self-contained document addressing those issues.

Following the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, the role of the HTOC has broadened in that it now has to cover alternatives to high-GWP HFCs as well as halons, HCFCs and their alternatives. Therefore, the contents of this technical note have been expanded accordingly.



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## 1 Introduction

Halons were remarkably good fire extinguishants; following their production phase-out, only 25% of system applications were “in-kind” (vaporizing liquids that left no residue and acceptable toxicity), the other 75% being various other “not-in-kind” solutions (e.g., sprinklers, water mist, foam, dry chemical, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)). For portable extinguishers, the split is approximately 20% “in-kind”, 80% “not-in-kind”.

There are several in-kind alternatives to halons. These started with hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs), followed closely by hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and inert gases (IGs), and more recently by a fluoroketone (FK). The HCFCs and PFCs are no longer used in new total flooding fire extinguishing systems and their use is limited to supporting existing systems. Today, for all practical purposes, there are three types of in-kind alternatives to the ozone-depleting fire extinguishants (halons and HCFCs) used in new fire extinguishing systems - these are HFCs, inert gases and an FK. The FK and inert gases also represent low-Global Warming Potential (GWP) and no-GWP alternatives to the halons, PFC’s, HCFCs and high-GWP HFCs. The status of each class of gaseous fire extinguishing agent is summarized in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1: Alternatives to Halons, PFCs, HCFC and HFCs**

<b>Agent type</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>Status as alternative</b>
Halons	High	High	N/A
PFCs	Zero	High	Can be viewed as halon alternatives, but only to support existing systems
HCFCs	Low	Low	Can be viewed as halon alternatives, but only to support existing systems
HFCs	Zero	High	Can be viewed as halon, PFC & HCFC alternatives
FK	Zero	Low	Can be viewed as halon, PFC, HCFC & HFC alternatives
HBFOs	Very low	Very low	Can be viewed as halon, PFC, HCFC & HFC alternatives
Inert Gas	Zero	Zero	Can be viewed as halon, PFC, HCFC & HFC alternatives

Since the 2014 Assessment Report, no substantial progress on potential alternatives has been reported. A hydrochlorofluoro-olefin, HCFO-1233zd(E), was proposed but has subsequently been withdrawn. More recently, the manufacturer has proposed a blend of this agent with the fluoroketone FK-5-1-12. Nevertheless, the HTOC is of the opinion that although research to identify potential new fire protection agents continues, it could be several years before a viable agent could possibly have significant impact on the fire protection sector. This could be as little as five years if the agent has undergone some development (e.g. CF<sub>3</sub>I) or as much as ten years if the agent is only in the research and development phase.

**1.1 Overview**

Halons 1301, 1211, and 2402 are highly effective, important fire extinguishing chemicals. Unfortunately, halons are potent ozone depleting substances (ODSs), and, as such, were phased out of production, beginning in the mid-1990s under the terms of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. Availability of halons today relies entirely on recovered and recycled materials. Several non-(ODSs) have been introduced for use as fire extinguishant alternatives. Technical Note #1 addresses several technical aspects of halon, HCFC and HFC alternatives. To begin, it is useful to understand different types of fires as they relate to selection of the best available alternative extinguishing agents.

**1.1.1 Fire types and classification**

There are several categories of fire types based on the physical or chemical nature of the fuel involved. The designation of the classification of fuel types varies by region and is summarized below.

**Table 1.2: Classifications of fuel types by region**

Region	Fuel Type Classification	
	United States	Europe, Australia & Asia
Ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, plastics, etc.)	Class A	Class A
Flammable liquids	Class B	Class B
Flammable gases	Class B	Class C
Electrical equipment	Class C	Class E
Combustible metals	Class D	Class D
Cooking oil or fat	Class K	Class F

**1.1.2 Considerations in selecting a fire extinguishing agent**

Halons, HCFCs and HFCs were not, and are not, used on fires involving combustible metals, nor for fire extinguishment in commercial cooking applications (hot cooking oils). These agents were commonly used for fire protection in applications involving the other listed fire classes - ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids, flammable gases, and electrical equipment. Each fire protection application involving one or more of these fire types has distinct characteristics that must be considered in selecting the best alternative fire protection technology. Examples of important application characteristics include:

- temperature, pressure, and altitude above sea level of the protected object or space;
- temperature of the location of the agent storage tanks;
- whether or not the space may be occupied at the time a fire occurs;
- whether fire extinguishing is to be achieved by directing agent directly onto or about a protected object or surface (local application);
- whether fire extinguishing is to be achieved by creation of a fire extinguishing atmosphere throughout a defined volume (total flooding);

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- pressure strength of the enclosure;
- availability of a water supply;
- asset or operational value of objects and spaces being protected;
- ability to minimize collateral damage and thereby limit downtime of equipment;
- sensitivity of protected objects and spaces to collateral damage by water or combustion gases (including agent decomposition gases, if applicable).

Halons, as defined in Group II of Annex A of the Montreal Protocol, form a class of halogenated chemicals containing bromine that have been, and in some instances, continue to be used as gaseous extinguishing agents in a wide range of fire and explosion protection applications. As previously noted, halons are potent stratospheric ozone depleting chemicals when released to the atmosphere. Halons have been phased out of production under the Montreal Protocol. The phase-out of halon production has had a dramatic impact on the fire and explosion protection industry. Halons are clean (do not leave non-volatile residues), non-conductive, and highly effective. Halon 1301, in particular, is safe to breathe at concentrations typically employed for total flooding fire extinguishing systems and explosion prevention (inerting) applications. HFCs, the FK and the inert gases developed to replace halons are also clean, non-conductive and are safe to breathe at the concentrations employed. There are some cases where only the original halon or a high-GWP HFC are the only choices to meet fire protection requirements, e.g., crew spaces of armoured vehicles and low temperature inerting.

Halon 1211 was widely employed as a “streaming agent” in hand-portable and wheeled fire extinguishing units. Alternatives include HCFC Blend B (HCFC-123, PFC-14 and argon), HFC-236fa and the FK, which also represents a low-GWP alternative to halon 1211, HCFC Blend B, and the high-GWP HFC-236fa, in some applications. Non-ODS alternatives exist for most applications but there are some cases where only the original halon or the HCFC Blend B or a high-GWP HFC are the only choices to meet fire protection requirements, e.g., for halon 1211 and HCFC Blend B - Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicles on airport ramps; for halon 1211 and HFC-236fa . Halon 2402 has been used in both total flooding and streaming agent applications and its alternatives are the same as for halons 1301 and 1211.

Selection of the best fire protection method in the absence of halons, while also avoiding HCFCs and HFCs, is often a complex process. Either alternative gaseous fire extinguishing agents, or other agent types or extinguishing methods, may be used, but the decision is driven by the details of the hazard being protected, the characteristics of the gaseous agent or alternative method, and the risk management philosophy of the user.

Gaseous extinguishing agents that are electrically non-conductive and which leave no residue are referred to as “clean” agents. (By this definition, carbon dioxide is also a “clean” agent. However, carbon dioxide is fatally toxic to people at concentrations in air that are well below fire-extinguishing concentrations and, therefore, cannot be deployed in spaces where people may be exposed.) Several alternative clean agents, and “not-in-kind” alternative technologies, have been introduced to the market to serve fire protection applications once served by halons. With the impending phase-out of HCFCs and the phase-down of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol, the purpose of this technical note is to provide a brief review of the alternatives to halons, HCFCs and HFCs that are available, including information on physical and chemical characteristics, fire protection capabilities, toxicity, and key environmental parameters.

### 1.1.3 Standards

There are numerous national and international fire protection standards that affect some of the measures of performance and guidelines for minimum concentrations of gaseous agents, depending on hazard type. Two of the most widely-adopted are NFPA 2001 and ISO 14520 and these standards do not agree exactly for each type of fire hazard. The minimum design concentrations for the various fire-hazard types are outlined below.

- Class A combustibles surface fire
  - NFPA 2001 and ISO 14520 have adopted different standards for the minimum design concentration for extinguishment of a Class A surface fire.
  - ISO 14520. The minimum extinguishing concentration for a Class A surface fire hazard shall be the greater of the extinguishing concentration values determined by the wood crib and polymeric sheet fire tests described in ISO 14520 Annex C of the agent-specific part. The minimum design concentration for a Class A fire shall be the extinguishing concentration increased by a safety factor of 1.3.
  - NFPA 2001. The minimum extinguishing concentration for a Class A surface fire hazard shall be the greater of the extinguishing concentration values determined by the wood crib and polymeric sheet fire tests described in NFPA 2001 Annex A. The minimum design concentration for a Class A fire shall be the greater of the following:
    - The Class A extinguishing concentration times a safety factor of 1.2; or
    - The minimum extinguishing concentration for heptane as determined by the cup burner method.
- ISO 14520 “Higher Hazard Class A” applications.
  - This classification of Class A hazards includes examples such as: cable bundles greater than 100 mm in diameter; cable trays with a fill density greater than 20 % of the tray cross-section; horizontal or vertical stacks of cable trays (closer than 250 mm); equipment energized during the extinguishment period where the collective power consumption exceeds 5 kW.
  - The minimum design concentration for Higher Hazard Class A applications shall be the higher of the minimum design concentration for either Surface Class A combustibles surface fire, or 95 % of the minimum design concentration Class B fuel fire.
- Class B fuel fire
  - Both NFPA 2001 and ISO 14520 are now in harmony with respect to requiring a minimum safety factor of 1.3 applied to the greater of the heptane extinguishing concentrations determined by the cup-burner method<sup>1</sup> or a pan-fire test<sup>2</sup> where the fire hazard is due to Class B combustibles.
- NFPA 2001 Class C fire hazard – electrified equipment
  - Equipment operating at less than 480 volts.
    - The minimum agent design concentrations is 1.35 times the Class A extinguishing concentration.

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<sup>1</sup> See NFPA 2001 Annex B or ISO 14520 Annex B.

<sup>2</sup> See NFPA 2001, Annex A or ISO 14520 Annex C.



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- Equipment operating at greater than 480 volts.
  - The minimum design concentration for spaces containing energized electrical hazards supplied at greater than 480 volts that remain powered during and after discharge shall be determined by testing, as necessary, and a hazard analysis NFPA

The following two subsections provide an overview of toxicity and environmental aspects of alternatives to halons, and the same principles apply to alternatives to HCFCs and HFCs. More detailed information on these topics and other agent properties is presented later, addressing total flooding and streaming agents, respectively.

### 1.1.4 Agent Toxicity

In general, personnel should not be exposed unnecessarily to atmospheres into which gaseous fire extinguishing agents have been discharged. Mixtures of air and halon 1301 have low toxicity at fire extinguishing concentrations and there is little risk posed to personnel that might be exposed in the event of an unexpected discharge of agent into an occupied space. The acceptance of new agents for use in total flooding fire protection in normally occupied spaces has been based on criteria that have evolved over the period of introduction of new technologies into the marketplace. In the case of inert gas agents, the usual concern is the residual oxygen concentration in the protected space after discharge. For chemical agents, the primary health issue is cardiac effects as a consequence of absorption of the agent into the blood stream. The highest agent concentration for which no adverse effect is observed is designated the “NOAEL” for “no observed adverse effect level”. The lowest agent concentration for which an adverse effect is observed is designated the “LOAEL” for “lowest observed adverse effect level”. This means of assessing chemical agents has been further enhanced by application of physiologically based pharmacokinetic modelling, or “PBPK” modelling, which accounts for exposure times. Some agents have their use concentration limits based on PBPK analysis. The approach is described in more detail in ISO 14520-1, Annex G, (2016). Health issues for the other alternatives (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>, water mist, fine solid particulate) are described in more detail later in this document.

### 1.1.5 Environmental Factors

The primary environmental factors to be considered for halogenated gaseous agents<sup>3</sup> are ozone-depletion potential (ODP), global-warming potential (GWP), and atmospheric lifetime, values of which are noted in Tables 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.12, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1. It is important to select the fire protection choice with the lowest environmental impact that will provide the necessary fire protection performance for the specific application. The use of any synthetic compound that accumulates in the atmosphere carries some potential risk with regard to atmospheric equilibrium changes. Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), in particular, represent an unusually severe potential environmental impact due to the combination of extremely long atmospheric lifetime and high

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<sup>3</sup> Halogenated gaseous agents, include hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), a fluoroketone (FK), a fluoriodocarbon (FIC), a hydrobromofluoro-olefin (HBFO) and potentially a hydrochlorofluoro-olefin (HCFO), that are used for fire-fighting applications. Each of these chemicals is stored either as a liquefied compressed gas or as a liquid at room temperature, is electrically non-conductive, and leaves no residue upon vapourisation.

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GWP. PFCs are no longer used as primary extinguishants in new systems, though a small amount of CF<sub>4</sub>, less than 2 %, is used as an additive in HCFC Blend B, a streaming agent. PFC use in legacy systems is diminishing. Thus, PFC agents are not considered to be viable alternatives and are not addressed further. International agreements and individual actions by national governments may affect future availability of several compounds and subsequent support for installed fire protection systems that utilize them. Some examples are presented below:

- HCFCs are scheduled for a production and consumption<sup>4</sup> phase-out for fire protection uses under the Montreal Protocol in 2020 in non-Article 5 (**non-A5**) parties and 2030 in Article 5 (**A5**) parties. In November 2018, the parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to adjust the Protocol and adopted a corresponding Decision XXX/2 to allow the use of newly produced HCFCs for the servicing of niche applications such as fire suppression and fire protection equipment existing on 1 January 2020 for the period 2020-2029 for non-A5 parties and also on existing equipment in 1 January 2030 for the period 2030-2039 for A5 parties.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has identified carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and the fluorochemicals HFCs, PFCs and SF<sub>6</sub> as the basket of long-lived (>1 year) gases primarily responsible for anthropogenic changes to the greenhouse effect and potentially subject to emission controls. All uses of fluorochemicals represent 4–5% of current worldwide greenhouse gas emissions from long-lived gases on a carbon equivalent basis and fire protection uses represent less than 1% of those fluorochemical emissions.
- In October 2016, at the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the parties in Kigali, Rwanda, Decision XXVIII/1 contained an amendment to add HFCs to the Montreal Protocol and slowly phase down their production and consumption. Unlike the controls on ODS that require a complete phase-out of production and consumption of controlled uses, the controls on HFCs are intended to only significantly reduce production (on a carbon dioxide equivalent basis), but not eliminate it. Under the Kigali Amendment, the production phase down would begin in most non-A5 parties with a 10% reduction in 2019 and end with an 85% reduction in 2036. For most A5 parties, the phase down would begin with a production freeze in 2024 and end with an 80% reduction in 2045. The amendment provides for a slight delay in the phase-down schedules for a group of parties in Eastern Europe and a group of parties with high ambient temperatures.
- In the EU, Regulation (EU) No. 517/2014 (known as the F-Gas Regulation), establishes rules on containment, use, recovery and destruction of fluorinated greenhouse gases in order to protect the environment. Related ancillary measures impose conditions on the placing on the market of specific products and equipment that contain, or whose functioning relies upon, fluorinated greenhouse gases, and establishes quantitative limits for the placing on the market of HFCs.

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<sup>4</sup> Consumption equals production plus imports minus exports for an individual country.

## **2 Total flooding agents**

A “total flooding” agent is any of several inert gases or volatile chemicals that, when dispersed throughout a protected volume, creates a fire extinguishing atmosphere. A number of fire extinguishing agent technologies have been commercialized for use in total flooding applications. Attributes of these are summarized, below.

Several agents have been incorporated into consensus standards, specifically NFPA 2001, ISO-14520 and other national standards, for use in normally occupied spaces. These agents include certain inert gases, HFCs and an FK. These agents may be used for total flooding fire protection in normally occupied spaces provided that the design concentration is below the safe exposure threshold limits shown in Tables 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 2.8. In addition, these standards include an FIC, but due to its higher toxicity this agent is not approved for normally occupied spaces.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program, has reviewed a number of materials as substitutes for halons as fire extinguishing agents. The approval status in the US of a number of such alternatives for use in total flooding systems are included as Annex A.

Agencies of other countries administer their own regulations on suitability of alternatives to halons. One example is in Germany, the Berufsgenossenschaftliche.

### **2.1 Halogenated Gaseous agents**

The tables below summarize key attributes of commercially available, technically proven halogenated gaseous agents for total flooding fire protection using fixed systems. The attributes addressed relate to efficacy, toxicity, volatility, environmental and relative cost characteristics. Cost effectiveness is represented by an index that is benchmarked against carbon dioxide total flooding systems, averaged over a wide range of application sizes, exclusive of the cost of pipe, fittings and installation and is based on 2003 data. Owing to commercial confidentiality, it has not been possible to use more current data, but nevertheless the indices are believed to be relatively accurate.

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**Table 2.1: Non-ODS halogenated gaseous agents**

Agent	FK-5-1-12	HFC-23	HFC-125	HFC-227ea
Efficacy	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 5.3 vol% MDC(B) = 5.9 vol% (1)	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 16.3 vol% MDC(B) = 16.4 vol%  • Suitable for “inerting” some otherwise flammable atmospheres at concentrations below the LOAEL value.  • Suitable for use at low temperatures (below -20 °C).	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 11.2 vol% MDC(B) = 12.1 vol%	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 7.9 vol% MDC(B) = 9.0 vol%
Toxicity	NOAEL = 10 vol% LOAEL > 10 vol%	NOAEL = 30 vol% LOAEL > 30 vol%	NOAEL = 7.5 vol% LOAEL = 10 vol% Approved for use in occupied spaces at up to 11.5 vol% based on PBPK modelling.	NOAEL = 9 vol% LOAEL = 10.5 vol% Approved for use in occupied spaces at up to 10.5 vol% based on PBPK modelling.
	Some acidic decomposition products are formed when a halogenated fire extinguishing agent extinguishes a fire.			
Safety Characteristics	Liquid at 20 °C B.P. = 49.2 °C	Liquefied compressed gas. B.P. = -82 °C	Liquefied compressed gas. B.P. = -48.1 °C	Liquefied compressed gas. B.P. = -16.4°C
Environmental Characteristics (2)	ODP = 0 GWP = <1	ODP = 0 GWP = 12 400	ODP = 0 GWP = 3170	ODP = 0 GWP = 3350
Cost-Effectiveness, avg. for 500 to 5000 m <sup>3</sup> volume (2003 data)	~1.7 to 2.0	~2.0 to 2.3	Not available	~1.5

Note 1: MDC(A) and MDC(B) refer to the minimum design concentration for a Class A or Class B fire hazard.

Note 2: Source: IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> WGI Assessment Report, 2013: <http://www.climatechange2013.org/>

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The agents addressed in Table 2.2 are ODS. While use of these agents is permitted for use in new fire extinguishing systems in many jurisdictions, the practice at present is primarily to use these agents to recharge legacy systems and to choose non-ozone-depleting agent for new systems.

**Table 2.2: HCFC agents**

Agent	HCFC Blend A 82 weight% HCFC 22 9.5 weight% HCFC 124 4.75 weight% HCFC 123 3.75 weight% isopropenyl-1-methylcyclohexane	HCFC-124
Efficacy	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 7.9 vol% MDC(B) = 9.0 vol%	For use in unoccupied spaces MDC(A) = (1) MDC(B) = 8.7 vol%
Toxicity	NOAEL = 10 vol% LOAEL > 10 vol%	NOAEL = 1 vol% LOAEL = 2.5 vol%
	Some acidic decomposition products are formed when a halogenated fire extinguishing agent extinguishes a fire.	
Safety Characteristics	B.P. = -38.2 °C	B.P. = -12.1 °C
Environmental Characteristics (2)	ODP    GWP	
	HCFC-22    0.055    1,760	ODP = 0.022
	HCFC 124    0.022    527	GWP = 527
	HCFC-123    0.02    79	
Cost-Effectiveness, avg. for 500 to 5000 m <sup>3</sup> volume (2003 data)	Varies from 1 to 2	Varies from 1 to 2

Note 1: Not reported

Note 2: Source: IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> WGI Assessment Report

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The table below summarizes key physical properties of halogenated gaseous agents including vapour pressure, vapour density, and liquid density at 20 °C, and the constants  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  that are used to calculate agent vapour specific volume ( $s$ ) as a function of temperature at one-atmosphere pressure (1.013 bar) using the following equation:  $s = k_1 + k_2 \cdot t$  where  $t$  is in °C and  $s$  has the units m<sup>3</sup>/kg

**Table 2.3: Physical properties (20 °C) of gaseous fire extinguishing agents used in total flooding applications (1)**

Generic Name	Vapour Pressure (bar)	Liquid Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	$k_1$ (m <sup>3</sup> /kg) (2)	$k_2$ (m <sup>3</sup> /kg-°C) (2)	s, Vapour Specific Volume (m <sup>3</sup> /kg)	Vapour Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Halon 1301 (a)	14.3	1,574	0.14781	0.000567	0.1592	6.283
HCFC Blend A	8.25	1,200	0.2413	0.00088	0.2589	3.862
HFC-23	41.8	807	0.3164	0.0012	0.3404	2.938
HFC-125	12.05	1,218	0.1825	0.0007	0.1965	5.089
HFC-227ea	3.9	1,41	0.1269	0.000513	0.1372	7.29
HFC-236fa	2.3	1,377	0.1413	0.0006	0.1533	6.523
FK-5-1-12	0.33	1,616	0.0664	0.000274	0.0719	13.912
HFC Blend B (b)	12.57	1,190	0.2172	0.0009	0.2352	4.252

Note 1: All values from ISO 14520 (2015) except where noted: (a) NFPA 12A (2018) and Thermodynamic Properties of Freon 13B1 (DuPont T-13B1); (b) American Pacific Corp.

Note 2: Agent vapour specific volume is calculated as  $s = k_1 + k_2 \cdot t$  at standard atmospheric pressure, 1.013 bar, where  $t$  is the vapour temperature in °C. Vapour density =  $1/s$ .

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The table below summarizes for halogenated gaseous agents the minimum extinguishing concentrations for Class A and Class B fires, as determined by standardized tests, the minimum inerting concentration to prevent flame propagation in a mixture of methane and air, and the NOAEL and LOAEL toxicity limits.

**Table 2.4: Halogenated gaseous agents used in total flooding applications – minimum extinguishing concentrations and agent exposure limits**

Generic Name ISO 14520 reference	Minimum Design Conc., Class A Fire vol % (1)	Minimum Design Conc., Class B Fire vol % (1)	Inerting Conc. Methane /Air, vol %	NOAEL vol % (2)	LOAEL vol % (2)	Maximum Conc. for 5 min. Exposure, vol % (6)
Halon 1301	5.0 (3)	5.0 (3)	4.9	5	7.5	-
HCFC Blend A ISO 14520-6	13.0 (7)	13.0	20.5	10	>10	10
HFC-23 ISO 14520-10	16.3	16.4	22.2	30	>50	30
HFC-125 ISO 14520-8	11.2	12.1	-	7.5	10	11.5
HFC-227ea ISO 14520-9	7.9	9.0	8.8	9	10.5	10.5
HFC-236fa ISO 14520-11	8.8	9.8	-	10	15	12
FK-5-1-12 ISO 14520-5	5.3	5.9	8.8	10	>10	10
HFC Blend B (4)	14.7 (5)	14.7	-	5	7.5	5

Note 1: Minimum design concentration as given in Table 5 of ISO 14520-(agent-specific volume), where available.

Note 2: A halocarbon agent may be used at a concentration up to its NOAEL value in normally occupied enclosures provided the maximum expected exposure time of personnel is not more than five minutes. A halocarbon agent may be used at a concentration up to the LOAEL value in normally occupied and normally unoccupied enclosures provided certain criteria are met that depend on agent toxicity and egress time. The reader is referred to NFPA 2001-1.5 (2018) and ISO 14520-G.4.3 (2015) for details of the recommended safe exposure guidelines for halocarbon agents.

Note 3: Exceptions, halon 1301 design concentration is taken as the historical employed value of 5%.

Note 4: Not approved for use in occupied spaces.

Note 5: Agent manufacturer did not provide Class A extinguishing concentration data. Class A design concentration in this case was taken as Class B design concentration.

Note 6: Agent exposure guidance is as indicated in ISO 14520-1 (2015) Annex G.

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The table below summarizes the environmental attributes of halocarbon agents including ODP, 100-year GWP, and atmospheric lifetime.

**Table 2.5: Halogenated gaseous agents used in total flooding applications  
– environmental factors**

Generic Name	Ozone Depletion Potential (1)	Global Warming Potential, 100 yr. (2)	Atmospheric Life Time, yr. (2)
Halon 1301	10	7,140	65
HCFC-22 (component in HCFC Blend A)	0.055	1,760	11.9
HCFC-124 (component in HCFC Blend A)	0.022	527	5.9
HCFC-123 (component in HCFC Blend A)	0.02	79	1.3
HFC-23	0	12,400	222
HFC-125	0	3,170	28.2
HFC-227ea	0	3,350	38.9
HFC-236fa	0	8,060	242
FK-5-1-12	0	< 1	7 days
HFC-134a (component in HFC Blend B)	0	1,300	13.4
HFC-125 (component in HFC Blend B)	0	3,170	28.2

Note 1: Source: Montreal Protocol Handbook (2012)

Note 2: Source: IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> WGI Assessment Report <http://www.climatechange2013.org/>



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The table below summarizes information relating relative agent efficacy for Class A total flooding fire protection applications including agent quantities per unit volume of protected space, typical cylinder fill densities, cylinder storage volume relative to halon 1301, and typical cylinder charging pressures.

**Table 2.6: Halogenated gaseous agents used in total flooding applications – agent quantity requirements (20 °C) for Class A combustible hazard applications (1, 2)**

Generic Name	Agent Mass, kg/m <sup>3</sup> of Protected Volume	Mass Relative to Halon 1301	Agent Liquid Volume litre/m <sup>3</sup> of Protected Volume	Maximum Cylinder Fill Density, kg/m <sup>3</sup> (3)	Cylinder Storage Volume Relative to Halon 1301 (4)	Cylinder Pressure @ 20°C, bar
Halon 1301 (5)	0.331	1.000	0.210	1,121	1.00	25 or 42
HCFC Blend A	0.577	1.74	0.481	900	2.17	25 or 42
HFC-23	0.572	1.73	0.708	860	2.25	43
HFC-125	0.701	1.93	0.525	929	2.33	25
HFC-227ea	0.722	1.89	0.444	1,150	1.84	25 or 42
HFC-236fa	0.629	1.91	0.459	1,200	1.78	25 or 42
FK-5-1-12	0.779	2.35	0.482	1,480	1.78	25, 34.5, 42 or 50
HFC Blend B (6,7)	0.733	2.22	0.616	929	2.67	25 or 42

Note 1: Agent quantities based on a safety factor of 1.3. Nominal maximum discharge time is 10 seconds in all cases.

Note 2: Mass and volume ratios based on Minimum Class A Fire Design Concentrations. See Table 2.4.

Note 3: Fill density based on 25 bar pressurization except for HFC-23.

Note 4: Agent cylinder volume per m<sup>3</sup> protected volume = (Agent Mass, kg/m<sup>3</sup> protected volume) / (Maximum Fill Density, kg/m<sup>3</sup> cylinder) = (V<sub>CYL</sub>/V<sub>ProtVol</sub>). For halon 1301 cylinder volume per m<sup>3</sup> hazard = (0.331 kg/m<sup>3</sup> hazard) / (1,121 kg/m<sup>3</sup> cylinder) = 0.0002953 m<sup>3</sup> cylinder / m<sup>3</sup> protected volume.

Note 5: NFPA 12A; ASTM D5632.

Note 6: Agent manufacturer did not supply complete Class A extinguishing data, hence no Class A MDC established; the heptane MDC was employed in this table.

Note 7: NFPA 2001 (2018).

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The table below summarizes information relating relative agent efficacy for Class B total flooding fire protection applications including agent quantities per unit volume of protected space, typical cylinder fill densities, cylinder storage volume relative to halon 1301, and typical cylinder charging pressures.

**Table 2.7: Halogenated gaseous agents used in total flooding applications - agent requirements for Class B fuel applications (1, 2)**

Generic Name	Agent Mass, kg/m <sup>3</sup> of Protected Volume	Mass Relative to Halon 1301	Agent Liquid Volume litre/m <sup>3</sup> of Protected Volume	Maximum Cylinder Fill Density, kg/m <sup>3</sup> (3)	Cylinder Storage Volume Relative to Halon 1301 (4)	Cylinder Pressure @ 20°C, bar
Halon 1301	0.331	1.00	0.210	1,121	1.00	25 or 42
HCFC Blend A	0.577	1.74	0.481	900	2.17	25 or 42
HFC-23	0.575	1.74	0.713	860	2.27	43
HFC-125	0.698	2.11	0.573	929	2.55	25
HFC-227ea	0.720	2.18	0.512	1,150	2.12	25 or 42
HFC-236fa	0.711	2.15	0.516	1,200	2.01	25 or 42
FK-5-1-12	0.872	2.63	0.540	1,480	2.00	25, 34.5, 42 or 50
HFC Blend B	0.733	2.22	0.616	929	2.67	25 or 42

Note 1: Agent quantities based on a safety factor of 1.3. Nominal maximum discharge time is 10 seconds in all cases.

Note 2: Mass and volume ratios based on "Minimum Class B Fire Design Concentrations." See Table 2.4.

Note 3: Fill density based on 25 bar pressurization except for HFC-23.

Note 4: Agent cylinder volume per m<sup>3</sup> of protected volume = (Agent Mass, kg/m<sup>3</sup> of protected volume)/(Maximum Fill Density, kg/m<sup>3</sup> cylinder) = (V<sub>CYL</sub>/V<sub>ProtVol</sub>). For halon 1301 cylinder volume per m<sup>3</sup> of protected volume = (0.331 kg/m<sup>3</sup> hazard)/(1,121 kg/m<sup>3</sup> cylinder) = 0.0002953 m<sup>3</sup> cylinder/m<sup>3</sup> of protected volume.

## 2.2 Inert gas agents

Inert gas clean agents have zero ODP and zero GWP.<sup>5</sup> There have been at least four inert gases or gas mixtures commercialized as clean total flooding fire suppression agents. Inert gas agents are typically used at design concentrations of 35 vol % to 50 vol %, which reduces the ambient oxygen concentration to between 14 vol % to 10 vol %, respectively. Reduced oxygen concentration (hypoxia) is the principal human safety risk for inert gases except for carbon dioxide which has serious human health effects at progressive severity as its concentration increases above 4 vol %. Inert gas agents mixed with air lead to flame extinguishment by

<sup>5</sup> Inert gas agent IG-541 contains 8 vol % carbon dioxide.

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physical mechanisms only. The inert gas agents commercialized since 1990 consist of nitrogen, argon, and blends of nitrogen and argon. One blend contains 8 % carbon dioxide. The features of the commercialized inert gas agents are summarized in Tables 2.8 and 2.9.

These agents are electrically non-conductive, clean fire suppressants. The inert gas agents containing nitrogen or argon differ from halogenated gaseous agents in the following ways:

- Inert gases can be supplied from high pressure cylinders, from low pressure cryogenic cylinders, or from pyrotechnic solids. High pressure systems use pressure reducing devices at or near the discharge manifold. This reduces the pipe thickness requirements and alleviates concerns regarding high pressure discharges.
- High pressure system discharge times are on the order of one to two minutes. This may limit some applications involving very rapidly developing fires.
- Inert gas agents are not subject to thermal decomposition and hence form no hazardous by-products.

The table below summarizes key attributes of inert gas agents.

**Table 2.8: Inert gas agents**

Agent	IG-01	IG-100	IG-55	IG-541
Efficacy	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 41.9 vol% MDC(B) = 51 vol %	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 40.3 vol% MDC(B) = 43.7 vol %	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 40.3 vol% MDC(B) = 47.5 vol %	For use in occupied spaces MDC(A) = 39.9 vol% MDC(B) = 41.2 vol %
Toxicity	Discharge of an inert gas system results in a significant reduction in the oxygen concentration within the protected area. See Table 2.10 regarding concentration and exposure limits for inert gas systems in normally occupied areas.			
Safety Characteristics	High-pressure compressed gas up to 300 bar			
Environmental Characteristics	No adverse characteristics			
Cost-Effectiveness, avg. for 500 to 5000 m <sup>3</sup> volume (2003 data)	~1.8	~1.8	~1.8	~1.8

The table below summarises the main characteristics of inert gas agents including composition, environmental factors, physical properties, and minimum extinguishing concentrations for Class A and Class B fires.

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**Table 2.9: Properties of inert gas agents for fixed systems**

ISO Designation	IG-01	IG-100	IG-55	IG-541
ISO 14520 Part	14520-12	14520-13	14520-14	14520-15
Agent composition				
Nitrogen		100 %	50 %	52 %
Argon	100 %		50 %	40 %
Carbon dioxide				8 %
Environmental factors				
Ozone depletion potential	0	0	0	0
Global warming potential, 100 yr.	0	0	0	0
Physical properties				
$k_1$ , m <sup>3</sup> /kg (1)	0.5612	0.7998	0.6598	0.65799
$k_2$ , m <sup>3</sup> /kg-°C (1)	0.00205	0.00293	0.00242	0.00239
Specific Volume, m <sup>3</sup> /kg	0.602	0.858	0.708	0.697
Gas Density, 20 °C, 1 atm, kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.661	1.165	1.412	1.434
Extinguishing (2)				
Min. Class A fire design conc., vol %	41.9	40.3	40.3	39.9
Oxygen conc. at min. Class A design conc., vol %	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.6
Min. Class B fire design conc., vol %	51	43.7	47.5	41.2
Oxygen conc. at min. Class B design conc., vol %	10.3	11.8	11.0	12.3
Inerting design conc., Methane/Air, vol %	61.4	-	-	47.3
Oxygen conc. at min. inerting design conc., vol %	8.1	-	-	11.0

Note 1: Agent vapour specific volume =  $k_1 + k_2 \cdot t$ , m<sup>3</sup>/kg at an atmospheric pressure of 1.013 bar where t is the vapour temperature in °C. Vapour density = 1/s.

Note 2: Extinguishing and design concentration values from ISO 14520 (2015).

### 2.2.1.1 Physiological effects of inert gas agents

The primary health concern relative to the use of the inert gas agents containing nitrogen or argon is the effect of reduced oxygen concentration on the occupants of a space. The use of reduced oxygen environments has been extensively researched and studied. Many countries have granted health and safety approval for use of inert gases in occupied areas in the workplace. One

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product contains 8 vol % carbon dioxide<sup>6</sup>, which is included to increase blood oxygenation and cerebral blood flow in low-oxygen (hypoxic) atmospheres.

The table below contains exposure guidelines for non-liquefied inert gas agents that are described in detail in ISO 14520-1 (2015), Annex G.

**Table 2.10: Exposure limits for inert gas agents**

Inert Gas Concentration	Concentration Residual Oxygen Concentration	Permitted Occupancy	Exposure Time Limit
< 43 vol %	> 12 vol %	Normally occupied	5 min
43 to 52 vol %	10 to 12 vol %	Normally occupied	3 min
52 to 62 vol %	8 to 10 vol %	Normally occupied	30 sec
> 62 vol %	< 8 vol %	Normally unoccupied	-

### 2.2.1.2 Agent exposure limits and system features for inert gas agents

The table below summarises the maximum agent concentration limits for personnel exposure up to 5 minutes, agent requirements for Class A and Class B fires, and some common system features.

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<sup>6</sup> Inert gas agent IG-541 contains 8% carbon dioxide and is approved by the U.S. EPA SNAP rules as a safe alternative to halon 1301 in total flooding fire protection systems. At elevated concentrations, however, carbon dioxide is not safe for human exposure and is lethal at fire extinguishing concentrations.

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**Table 2.11: Inert gas agents - fixed system features**

ISO Designation	IG-01	IG-100	IG-541	IG-55
Agent exposure limits				
Max agent concentration where exposure is less than 5 min., vol % (1)	43	43	43	43
Max agent concentration where exposure is less than 3 min, vol % (2)	52	52	52	52
System requirements per m <sup>3</sup> of protected volume				
Class A hazard				
Agent gas volume, m <sup>3</sup> (3)	0.407	0.387	0.381	0.387
Cylinder storage volume, litre (4)	3.01	2.87	3.38	3.44
Cylinder volume relative to halon 1301 (5)	9.90	9.40	11.1	11.2
Class B hazard				
Agent gas volume, m <sup>3</sup> (3)	0.712	0.575	0.577	0.644
Cylinder storage volume, litre (4)	3.95	3.19	3.84	4.30
Cylinder volume relative to halon 1301 (5)	13.0	10.4	12.6	14.0
System Features				
Available cylinder sizes (typical), litre	16;67;80	16;67;80	16;67;80	16;67;80
Available cylinder pressures, bar	150 to 300	150 to 300	150 to 300	150 to 300
Nominal Discharge Time, seconds	60	60	60	60

Note 1: Corresponds to a residual oxygen concentration of 12 vol %.

Note 2: Corresponds to a residual oxygen concentration of 10 vol %.

Note 3: Based on minimum design concentrations in ISO14520, Parts 12 to 15 (2015).

Note 4: Approximate, for the 200 bar cylinder pressure.

Note 5: Halon 1301 cylinder volume per m<sup>3</sup> hazard. See Note 4 of Table 2.6.

## **2.3 Carbon dioxide**

Carbon dioxide was used widely for fire protection prior to the introduction of halons. Due to its toxicity, use of carbon dioxide in occupied or occupiable spaces requires the implementation of significant safety measures. Nonetheless, carbon dioxide has seen a resurgence in use subsequent to the halon production phase-out, particularly in new commercial ship construction where halon 1301 once had a significant role. Minimum design concentrations for carbon dioxide are specified in national and international standards such as NFPA 12 and ISO 6183. The minimum design concentration for carbon dioxide systems is, typically, 35 vol % for Class B fuels and 34 vol % for Class A applications.

### **2.3.1 Carbon dioxide toxicity**

Carbon dioxide is essentially chemically inert as a fire extinguishing gas. Carbon dioxide does, however, have significant adverse physiological effects when inhaled at concentrations above 4 vol %. The severity of physiological effects increases as the concentration of carbon dioxide in air increases. Exposure to carbon dioxide at concentrations exceeding 10 vol % poses severe health risks including risk of death. As such, atmospheres containing carbon dioxide at fire extinguishing concentrations are always lethal to humans. Precautions must always be taken to ensure that occupied spaces are not put at risk by ingress of carbon dioxide from a space into which the agent has been discharged.

The use of carbon dioxide is not recommended for total flooding of normally occupied spaces. NFPA 12 (2018) includes new restrictions on the use of carbon dioxide in normally occupied spaces. Safety precautions related to the use of carbon dioxide may also be found in ISO 6183 (2009).

### **2.3.2 Environmental effects of carbon dioxide**

The carbon dioxide used in fire protection applications is not produced for this use. Instead, it is captured from an otherwise emissive use temporarily sequestering it until it is released. Thus, carbon dioxide from fire protection uses has no net effect on the climate. The table below summarizes key attributes of carbon dioxide.

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**Table 2.12: Carbon dioxide**

Agent	Carbon dioxide, CO <sub>2</sub>
Efficacy	For use in unoccupied spaces Basic design concentration = 34 vol% for a “material factor” of 1. Design concentrations for specific combustible materials are determined by multiplying the basic design concentration by an applicable material factor. (1)
Toxicity	Progressively more severe physiological effects as exposure concentration increases, especially above 10 vol%. Carbon dioxide concentrations that exceed 17 vol% present an immediate risk to life. (2) Pre-discharge alarm and discharge time delay required.
Safety Characteristics	Liquefied compressed gas Storage pressure: High-pressure cylinder: 55.8 bar at 20 °C Low-pressure tanks (refrigerated): 21 bar at -18 °C Sublimes at -78.5 °C at atmospheric pressure; cold exposure hazard. Vapours are denser than air and can accumulate in low-lying spaces.
Environmental Characteristics	GWP = 1
Cost-Effectiveness, avg. for 500 to 5000 m <sup>3</sup> volume (2003 data)	1

Note 1: See ISO 6183:2009

Note 2: See U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Carbon Dioxide as a Fire Suppressant: Examining the Risks,” February 2000.

### 2.4 Water mist technology

Water mist fire suppression technologies are described in national and international standards such as NFPA 750 *Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems* and the FM Approvals Standard No. 5560 *Water Mist Systems*.

Water mist system technologies strive to generate and distribute within a protected space very small water mist droplets which serve to extinguish flames by the combined effects of cooling and oxygen dilution by steam generated upon water evaporation. Technologies used to generate fine water mists include:



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- Low pressure single fluid atomization
- High pressure single fluid atomization
- Dual-fluid atomization
- Hot water steam generation

Briefly, fine water mist relies on sprays of relatively small diameter droplets (less than 200  $\mu\text{m}$ ) to extinguish fires. The mechanisms of extinguishment include the following:

- Gas phase cooling
- Oxygen dilution by steam formation
- Wetting and cooling of surfaces, and
- Turbulence effects

The table below summarizes key attributes of water mist technology.

**Table 2.13: Water mist technology**

Agent	Water mist
Efficacy	For use in occupied spaces. Uses approximately 10 % of the total water quantity discharged by traditional sprinkler system to suppress fires, where tested.
Toxicity	None
Safety Characteristics	No adverse safety characteristics
Environmental Characteristics	No adverse characteristics
Cost-Effectiveness, avg. for a 3 000 m <sup>3</sup> application space	~2

Water mist systems offer some advantages due to their low environmental impact, ability to suppress three-dimensional flammable liquid fires under defined conditions, and reduced water application rates relative to automatic sprinklers in certain applications. More recent innovations include use of nitrogen with water mist to achieve inert gas extinguishing effects and use of bi-fluid (air-water) nozzles to achieve ultrafine droplets and adjustable spray patterns (by varying the air-water ratio). The use of relatively small (10-100  $\mu\text{m}$ ) diameter water droplets as a gas phase extinguishing agent has been established for at least 40 years. Advances in nozzle design and improved theoretical understanding of fire suppression processes has led to the development of at least nine technologies for use in water mist fire suppression systems. Several systems have been approved by national authorities for use in relatively narrow application areas. To date, these applications include shipboard machinery spaces, combustion turbine enclosures, flammable and combustible liquid storage spaces as well as light and ordinary hazard sprinkler application areas.

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Theoretical analysis of water droplet suppression efficiencies has indicated that a liquid water volume concentration on the order of 0.1 litre of water per cubic meter of protected space is sufficient to extinguish fires. This represents a potential of two orders of magnitude efficiency improvement over application rates typically used in conventional sprinklers. The most important aspect of water mist technology is the extent to which the mist spray can be mixed and distributed throughout a compartment versus the loss rate by water coalescence, surface deposition, and gravity dropout. The suppression mechanism of water mist is primarily cooling of the flame reaction zone below the limiting flame temperature. Other mechanisms are important in certain applications; for example, oxygen dilution by steam has been shown to be important for suppression of enclosed 3-D flammable liquid spray fires.

The performance of a particular water mist system is strongly dependent on its ability to generate sufficiently small droplet sizes and distribute adequate quantities of water throughout the compartment. Factors that affect the ability of achieving that goal include droplet size and velocity, distribution, and spray pattern geometry, as well as the momentum and mixing characteristics of the spray jet and test enclosure effects. Hence, the required application rate varies by manufacturer for the same hazard. Therefore, water mist must be evaluated in the combined context of a suppression system and the risk it protects and not just an extinguishing agent.

There is no current theoretical basis for designing the optimum droplet size and velocity distribution, spray momentum, distribution pattern, and other important system parameters. This is quite analogous to the lack of a theoretical basis for nozzle design for total flooding, gaseous systems, or even conventional sprinkler and water spray systems. Hence, much of the experimental effort conducted to date is full-scale fire testing of particular water mist hardware systems which are designed empirically. This poses special problems for standards making and regulatory authorities.

There are currently two basic types of water mist suppression systems: single and dual fluid systems. Single fluid systems utilize water delivered at 7-200 bar pressure and spray nozzles which deliver droplet sizes in the 10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter range. Dual systems use air, nitrogen, or another gas to atomize water at a nozzle. Both types have been shown to be promising fire suppression systems. The major difficulties with water mist systems are those associated with design and engineering. These problems arise from the need to distribute and maintain an adequate concentration of mist throughout the space while momentum of hot fire gases, ventilation, gravity and water deposition loss on surfaces deplete the concentration. Engineering analysis and experimental programmes for specific mist products (with unique droplet distribution and concentration) are employed to minimize the uncertainty.

### **2.4.1 Physiological Effects of water mist.**

At the request of the US EPA, manufacturers of water mist systems and other industry partners convened a medical panel to address questions concerning the potential physiological effects of inhaling very small water droplets in fire and non-fire scenarios. Disciplines represented on the Panel included inhalation toxicology, pulmonary medicine, physiology, aerosol physics, fire toxicity, smoke dynamics, and chemistry, with members coming from commercial, university, and military sectors. The Executive Summary (draft "Water Mist Fire Suppression Systems Health Hazard Evaluation;" Halon Alternatives Research Corporation (HARC), U.S. Army,

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NFPA; March 1995) states the following: “The overall conclusion of the Health Panel’s review is that...water mist systems using pure water do not present a toxicological or physiological hazard and are safe for use in occupied areas. Thus, EPA is listing water mist systems composed of potable water and natural sea water as acceptable without restriction. However, water mist systems comprised of mixtures in solution must be submitted to EPA for review on a case-by-case basis”.

### 2.4.2 Environmental factors of water mist.

Water mist does not contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion or to greenhouse warming of the atmosphere. Water containing additives may, however, have other environmental contamination risks, e.g., foams, antifreeze and other additives.

### 2.5 Inert gas generators

Inert gas generators are pyrotechnic devices that utilize a solid material which oxidises rapidly, producing large quantities of carbon dioxide and/or nitrogen. Recent innovations include generators that produce high purity nitrogen or nitrogen and water vapour with little particulate content. The use of this technology to date has been limited to specialized applications such as dry bays on military aircraft. This technology has demonstrated excellent performance in these applications with space and weight requirements equivalent to those of halon 1301 and is currently being utilized in some US Navy aircraft applications. The table below summarizes key attributes of inert-gas generator agents.

**Table 2.14: Inert gas generators**

Agent	Inert gas by pyrotechnic generator
Efficacy	For use in occupied or unoccupied spaces depending on properties of emitted agent.
Toxicity	Toxicity depends on the type of gas generator. Guidance related to oxygen concentration reduction applicable to inert gas systems must be followed. Additional safety considerations required where discharged gas contains carbon dioxide.
Safety Characteristics	Potentially hot-gas discharge; potential hot surfaces of generator body. Insulating consideration required by generator manufacturer. Discharge of inert gases into an enclosure will cause a rise in pressure to a level that depends on enclosure venting characteristics.
Environmental Characteristics	No adverse characteristics
Cost-Effectiveness	Not available

Physiological effects of inert gas generator agents. The precise composition and properties of the gas produced will affect the response of exposed persons and are determinant factors regarding application in occupied or unoccupied areas. US EPA SNAP has listed as acceptable a gas generator that produces relatively pure nitrogen for use in normally occupied spaces.

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Environmental effects of inert gas generator agents. Gases emitted by these products do not contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion or to greenhouse warming of the atmosphere except to the extent that they emit carbon dioxide, if any.

### 2.6 Fine solid particulate technology

Another category of technologies being developed and introduced are those related to fine solid particulates and aerosols. These take advantage of the well-established fire suppression capability of solid particulates, with potentially reduced collateral damage associated with traditional dry chemicals. This technology is being pursued independently by several groups and is proprietary. To date, a number of aerosol generating extinguishing compositions and aerosol extinguishing means have been developed in several countries. They are in production and are used to protect a range of hazards. The table below summarizes key attributes of fine solid particle agents (powders).

**Table 2.15: Fine solid particles (powders)**

Agent	Fine solid particles
Efficacy	For use in normally unoccupied spaces on Class B fires.
Toxicity	Precautions require evacuation of spaces before discharge.
Safety Characteristics	<p>For establishments manufacturing the agent or filling, installing, or servicing containers or systems to be used in total flooding applications, U.S. EPA recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adequate ventilation should be in place to reduce airborne exposure to constituents of agent;</li> <li>- an eye wash fountain and quick drench facility should be close to the production area;</li> <li>- training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent;</li> <li>- workers responsible for clean-up should allow for maximum settling of all particulates before re-entering area and wear appropriate protective equipment</li> </ul> <p>Discharge of associated inert gases into an enclosure will cause a rise in pressure to a level that depends on enclosure venting characteristics.</p>
Environmental Characteristics	No adverse characteristics
Cost-Effectiveness	Not available

One principle of these aerosol extinguishants is in generating solid aerosol particles and inert gases in the concentration required and distributing them uniformly in the protected volume. Aerosol and inert gases are formed through a burning reaction of the pyrotechnic charge having a specially proportioned composition. An insight into an extinguishing effect of aerosol compositions has shown that extinguishment is achieved by combined action of two factors such

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as flame cooling due to aerosol particles heating and vaporizing in the flame front as well as a chemical action on the radical level. Solid aerosols must act directly upon the flame. Gases serve as a mechanism for delivering the aerosol towards the seat of a fire.

A number of enterprises have commercialized the production of aerosol generators for extinguishing systems that are installed at stationary and mobile industrial applications such as nuclear power station control rooms, automotive engine compartments, defence premises, engine compartments of ships, telecommunications/electronics cabinets, and aircraft nacelles.

Fine particulate aerosols have also been delivered in HFC/HCFC carrier gases. A wide range of research into aerosol generating compositions has been carried out to define their extinguishing properties, corrosion activity, toxicity, and effect upon the ozone layer as well as electronics equipment.

Solid particulates and chemicals have very high effectiveness/weight ratios. They also have the advantage of reduced wall and surface losses relative to water mist, and the particle size distribution is easier to control and optimize. However, there is concern of potential collateral damage to electronics, engines, and other sensitive equipment. Condensed aerosol generators, which produce solid particulates through combustion of a pyrotechnic material, are unsuitable for explosion suppression or inerting since pyrotechnic/combustion ignited aerosols can be re-ignition sources. These agents also have low extinguishing efficiency on smouldering materials. Technical problems including high temperature, high energy output of combustion generated aerosols and the inability to produce a uniform mixture of aerosol throughout a complex geometry remain to be solved.

Additional information on fine solid particulate technologies may be found in NFPA 2010 *Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire Extinguishing Systems*.

### **2.6.1 Physiological effects of fine particle agents**

There are several potential problems associated with the use of these agents. These effects include inhalation of particulate, blockage of airways, elevated pH, reduced visibility, and the products of combustion from combustion generated aerosols, such as HCl, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. For these reasons, the majority of these technologies are limited to use in only unoccupied spaces.

### **2.6.2 Environmental effects of fine particle agents**

Fine particulate aerosols themselves and associated inert gases from generators do not contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion or to greenhouse warming of the atmosphere. There may be ozone depletion or greenhouse gas effects, however, where aerosols are delivered with carrier gases that are halogenated gaseous agents.

### **2.7 System design considerations for total flooding agents**

Care must be taken throughout the design process to ensure satisfactory system performance. Hazard definition, nozzle location and design concentration must be specified within carefully defined limits. Further, a high degree of enclosure integrity is required. Design requirements are provided by national and international standards such as NFPA 2001 and ISO 14520. An outline of factors to be taken into consideration is given below:

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### 2.7.1 Definition of the hazard

- Fuel type(s)
- Fuel loading
- Room integrity (openings, ventilation, false ceilings, subfloors)
- Dimensions and Net Volume of the room
- Temperature extremes
- Barometric pressure (altitude above sea level for gas systems)

### 2.7.2 Agent selection

- Statutory approvals
- Personnel safety
- Minimum concentration required (cup burner/full scale tests)
- Design concentration required with factor of safety
- NOAEL/LOAEL or limiting oxygen concentration. Is the agent design concentration within safe exposure limits over the range of feasible hazard temperatures and net volumes?
- Decomposition characteristics
- Replenishment availability

### 2.7.3 System selection

- System intended for use with the agent selected
  - Pressures, elastomers, gauges, labels
- System has appropriate approvals as the result of third party testing
  - Strength tests (containers, valves, gauges, hoses, etc.)
  - Leakage tests
  - Cycle testing of all actuating components
  - Corrosion tests
  - Cylinder mounting device tests
  - Aging tests for elastomers
  - Flow tests (software verification, balance limitations)
  - Fire tests (nozzle area coverage, nozzle height limitations)
- System has documented design, installation, maintenance procedures

#### 2.7.4 System design

- Automatic detection and control
  - Type of detection (smoke, heat, flame, etc.)
  - Logic (cross zoned, priority designated)
  - Control system features
  - Local and remote annunciation
  - Start up and shut down of auxiliary systems
  - Primary and back-up power supply
  - Manual backup and discharge abort controls
- Central agent storage, distributed or modular
- Electrical, pneumatic or electrical/pneumatic actuation
- Detector location
- Alarm and control devices location
- Electrical signal and power cable specifications
- Nozzle selection and location
- Piping distribution network with control devices
- Piping and other component hangers and supports
- Agent hold time and leakage
- Selection of an appropriate design concentration
- Agent quantity calculations
- Flow calculations
- Pipe size and nozzle orifice determination

#### 2.7.5 System installation

- Installed per design
- System recalculated to confirm "as built" installation
- Correct piping
  - Size
  - Routing
  - Number and placement of fittings
  - Pipe supports
  - Correct type, style, orifice size nozzle in each location
- Fan test to confirm tightness of protected volume and adequacy of pressure relief venting
- Acceptance functional test of full system without discharge
  - Test each detector's operation

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- Test system logic with detection operation
- Test operation of auxiliary controls
- Test local and remote annunciation
- Test signal received at system valve actuators
- Test system manual operators
- Test system abort discharge abilities

### **2.7.6 Post-installation follow up**

- Integrity of the protected space does not change
  - Walls, ceiling and floor intact
  - Any new openings sealed properly
- Net volume and temperature range of the space does not change
- Regular maintenance for detection, control, alarm and actuation system
- Regular verification of the agent containers' charged weight
- Regular cleaning of the detection devices
- Confirmation of back-up battery condition



**3 Local application (streaming) agents**

**3.1 General**

Local application agents, also referred to as streaming agents, are used in portable fire extinguishers and fixed extinguisher units designed to protect specific hazards. The tables below summarize commercially available, technically proven agents for local application fire protection using portable or fixed systems. Cost effectiveness is represented by an index benchmarked against the approximate cost of a portable carbon dioxide extinguisher unit that has a UL 10B rating. Acceptability of substitutes for halons, HCFCs and HFCs as streaming fire extinguishing agents is also regulated by national agencies.

The US EPA, under the SNAP program, has reviewed a number of materials as substitutes for halons as streaming fire extinguishing agents. The approval status in the US of a number of such alternatives for use in total flooding systems may be found Annex B.

**3.2 Carbon dioxide**

Carbon dioxide extinguishers use CO<sub>2</sub> stored as a liquefied compressed gas. Carbon dioxide is most suitable for use on fires involving flammable liquids. Carbon dioxide does not conduct electricity and can be used safely on fires involving live electrical circuits. In general, carbon dioxide extinguishers are less effective for extinguishing fires of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and fabrics. The table below summarizes key attributes of carbon dioxide as a streaming agent.

**Table 3.1: Carbon dioxide streaming agent**

Agent	Carbon dioxide, CO <sub>2</sub>
Efficacy	For use on Class B fires Can be used on most electrically energized equipment fires.
Toxicity	High exposure risk where carbon dioxide gas accumulates in confined spaces that may be entered by personnel.
Safety Characteristics	Liquefied compressed gas Storage pressure: 55.8 bar at 20 °C Solid CO <sub>2</sub> (“dry ice”) sublimates at -78.5 °C at atmospheric pressure. Presents a cold-exposure hazard. Vapours usually flow to floor level so personnel exposure risk is normally low.
Environmental Characteristics	GWP = 1
Cost-Effectiveness	1 (baseline)

### 3.3 Halogenated gaseous agents

Halogenated gaseous streaming agents can be used to effectively extinguish fires of ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, plastic) and combustible liquids, and agent vapours permeate well thereby avoiding secondary damage. However, in general, they are more expensive than traditional fire protection agents and, generally, more agent is required than would be for halon 1211. The table below summarises type, composition, and environmental properties of halogenated gaseous streaming agents, also included for reference, for use as local application agents.

**Table 3.2: Halogenated gaseous streaming agents - type, composition, and environmental properties**

Generic Name	Group	Storage State	Chemical Composition		Environmental Factors		
			Weight %	Species	ODP	100-year GWP (1)	Atmospheric Lifetime yr.
Halon 1211	Halon	LCG	100 %	CF <sub>2</sub> ClBr	3	1,750	16
HFC-236fa	HFC	LCG	100 %	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub>	0	8,060	242
HFC-227ea	HFC	LCG	100 %	CF <sub>3</sub> CHFCF <sub>3</sub>	0	3,350	38.9
FK-5-1-12	FK	Liquid	100 %	C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>12</sub> O	0	< 1	7 days
FIC-131I	FIC (2)	LCG	100 %	CF <sub>3</sub> I	.0001	0.4	0.005
HCFC Blend B	HCFC & PFC blend	CGS	> 96 %	HCFC-123	0.02	79	1.3
			< 4 %	Ar	0	0	n/a
			< 2 %	CF <sub>4</sub>	0	6,630	> 50,000

LCG - Liquefied Compressed Gas; ODP - Ozone Depletion Potential; GWP - 100-year Global Warming Potential; CGS - Compressed Gas in Solution

Note 1: Source: IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> WGI Assessment Report <http://www.climatechange2013.org/>

Note 2: FIC-131I has B.P. = -23 °C.

#### 3.3.1 Toxicity of halogenated gaseous streaming agents

The toxicity of streaming agents is assessed based on the likely exposure of the person using the extinguisher. This is sometimes measured using breathing zone samples. All of the streaming agents in Table 18 are considered safe for normal use in non-residential and unoccupied applications. Use of some of these agents in confined spaces may be a cause for concern. In particular, FIC-131I has a NOAEL of 0.2 vol % and a LOAEL of 0.4 vol % and, as such, poses risks to personnel in confined spaces.

#### 3.3.2 Environmental factors of halocarbon streaming agents

The environmental factors for halogenated gaseous streaming agents are the same as those discussed for halogenated gaseous total flooding agents. Information on ODP, GWP and atmospheric lifetime are presented in the table below. Traditional streaming agents (e.g., water,

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aqueous salt solutions, dry chemical, and foam) do not present environmental concerns in the areas of ODP, GWP, or atmospheric lifetime but may offer other environmental risks associated with the use of additives, e.g., fluorosurfactants. The table below summarizes main performance attributes of halogenated gaseous chemical streaming agents.

**Table 3.3: Halocarbon streaming agents - main performance attributes**

Agent	HCFC Blend B 96% HCFC-123 < 2% CF <sub>4</sub> < 4% Argon		HFC-236fa	HFC-227ea	FK-5-1-12	FIC-1311 <sup>7</sup>					
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires For use on Class B fires For use on fires involving electrified equipment										
Toxicity	Vapour toxicity low to moderate.					Vapour toxicity moderate to high.					
	Vapour exposure risk usually low. Some halogen acids form upon application to a fire. Dense vapour can accumulate in low spaces										
Safety Characteristics	Pressurized hand-held container.										
Environmental Characteristics (1)		ODP	GWP	ODP	GWP	ODP	GWP	ODP	GWP	ODP	GWP
	HCFC-123	0.02	79	0	8,060	0	3,350	0	<10	0.4	0.0001
	CF <sub>4</sub>	0	6,630	0	8,060	0	3,350	0	<10	0.4	0.0001
	Argon	0	0	0	8,060	0	3,350	0	<10	0.4	0.0001
Cost-Effectiveness	Varies from about 1 to about 2										

Note 1: Source: IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> WGI Assessment Report <http://www.climatechange2013.org/>

### 3.4 Dry chemical agents

Dry chemical extinguishers are of two types. “Ordinary” dry chemicals, usually formulations based on sodium or potassium bicarbonate, are suitable for fires involving flammable liquids and gases. “Multipurpose” dry chemicals, usually formulations of monoammonium phosphate (MAP), are suitable for use on fires of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and fabrics and fires involving flammable liquids and gases. Both ordinary and multipurpose dry chemicals may be safely used on fires where electrical circuits are present; however, after application dry chemical residue should be removed because in the presence of moisture it could provide an electrical path that would reduce insulation effectiveness.

One important aspect is that the two types of dry chemicals must never be mixed (e.g. during filling or re-charge) as they react liberating water and CO<sub>2</sub>. This can cause corrosion of the cylinder, and the resultant increase in pressure can then become a safety hazard.

<sup>7</sup> Principal known use of FIC-1311 is used for fire protection of rim seals on floating roof petroleum tanks.

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The table below summarizes key attributes of dry chemical streaming agents.

**Table 3.4: Dry chemical streaming agents - main performance attributes**

Agent	Dry chemicals
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires: Multipurpose dry chemical For use on Class B fires: Ordinary dry chemical or multipurpose dry chemical For use on fires involving electrified equipment Dry chemical applied to some electrical or sensitive equipment may cause damage otherwise not caused by a fire.
Toxicity	Low. Precautions required to avoid inhalation of agent particles.
Safety Characteristics	Pressurized containers
Environmental Characteristics	Low environmental risk
Cost-Effectiveness	~ 0.2

### 3.5 Water, straight stream

Straight stream water is suitable for use on fires of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and fabrics only. This type of extinguisher is unsuitable for use in extinguishing fires involving liquids or gases and in fact could spread a flammable liquid fuel. Straight stream water extinguishers are unsafe for use on fires where energized electrical circuits are present. The table below summarizes key attributes of straight-stream water as a streaming agent.

**Table 3.5: Water, straight stream**

Agent	Water, straight-stream, ~9 litre
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires not involving electrified equipment or materials that are reactive with water (e.g. metals). Not suitable for Class B fires. Water applied to some electrical or sensitive equipment may cause damage otherwise not caused by a fire.
Toxicity	Non-toxic
Safety Characteristics	No adverse characteristics. Not suitable for use on electrified equipment.
Environmental Characteristics	No significant risk
Cost-Effectiveness	~0.5

**3.6 Water mist (spray)**

Water spray extinguishers are most suitable for use on fires of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and fabrics. This type of extinguisher may be less effective on deep-seated fires. The spray stream is generally more effective on burning embers and may provide a limited capability for fires involving combustible liquid fuels. Some water spray extinguishers can be used on fires where live electrical circuits are present. Users should ensure that the extinguisher has been tested and certified before use on live electrical circuits. Some manufacturers have introduced “water mist” fire extinguishers into commerce. The table below summarizes key attributes of water mist or spray as a streaming agent.

**Table 3.6: Fine water spray as a streaming agent**

Agent	Water, fine spray
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires including use on electrified equipment up to 10 kV. Not suitable for use on materials that are reactive with water (e.g. metals). Not suitable for Class B fires. Water applied to some electrical or sensitive equipment may cause damage otherwise not caused by a localized fire.
Toxicity	Non-toxic
Safety Characteristics	No adverse characteristics
Environmental Characteristics	No significant risk
Cost-Effectiveness	~ 0.6 (~ 9 litre extinguisher unit; cost index compared to a 10B-rated CO <sub>2</sub> unit)

**3.7 Aqueous salt solutions**

Aqueous solutions of certain salts are used in fire protection for certain types of hazards. Water containing certain dissolved salts has been found to be more effective than water alone in the extinguishment of fires. Potassium salts are usually employed. Examples include potassium acetate, potassium citrate, potassium formate, potassium lactate, and others, sometimes in combination, and with additives to inhibit corrosion, promote aqueous film-forming action to suppress vapor evolution from flammable liquids, and solution stability. Applications for aqueous salt solutions include fire protection for commercial cooking equipment and industrial vehicles. Some attributes of aqueous salt solution agents are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.7: Aqueous salt solutions streaming agents**

Agent	Aqueous salt solutions, fine spray
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires not involving electrified equipment or materials that are reactive with water (e.g., metals). Suitability for use on Class B fires depends on formulation and means of delivery. Used on cooking oil fires where nozzle design limits splatter of hot oil. Salt solutions may cause damage to some electrical equipment not otherwise damaged by fire.
Toxicity	Varies from low to moderate.
Safety Characteristics	pH is usually basic, varying from 8 to 13. Possible short-exposure skin irritation depending on duration of exposure if wetted with agent.
Environmental Characteristics	No significant risk
Cost-Effectiveness	~0.7 to 1 (~9 litre extinguisher unit; cost index compared to a 10B-rated CO <sub>2</sub> unit)

### 3.8 Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF)

Extinguishers using water and AFFF additives may be more effective than those using water alone on fires of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and fabrics. Additionally, water with AFFF additives will have improved ability, over water alone, to extinguish fires involving flammable or combustible liquids. Also, this agent has the ability to reduce the likelihood of ignition when applied to the liquid surface of an unignited spill. The AFFF reduces vapour propagation from the flammable liquid.

Depending upon the stream pattern, this type of extinguisher may not be safe for use on fires where live electrical circuits are present.

The table below summarizes key attributes of streaming agents employing AFFF. It should be noted that some currently-available AFFF agents contain surfactants consisting of perfluorinated eight-carbon (C8) molecular chains that are known to be bio-persistent and bio-accumulative once released to the environment. The environmental impact of using AFFF agents containing C8 fluorosurfactants must be weighed against the potential gain in efficacy when selecting a portable extinguisher for each specific application. A number of manufacturers ceased production in 2015 of fluorosurfactants containing the problematic C8 species. The performance properties of AFFF agents using reformulated fluorosurfactants should be verified.

**Table 3.8: Aqueous film-forming foam as a streaming agent**

Agent	Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF)
Efficacy	For use on Class A fires not involving electrified equipment or materials that are reactive with water (e.g. metals). For use on Class B fires.
Toxicity	Moderate.
Safety Characteristics	pH is approximately neutral, varying between about 6.5 and 8.
Environmental Characteristics	Uncontained run-off of agent poses risks of contamination of soil, streams, and rivers.
Cost-Effectiveness	~0.6 (~9 litre extinguisher unit; cost index compared to a 10B-rated CO <sub>2</sub> unit)

### 3.9 Streaming agents for residential use

Distinctions are often made by national bodies as to the acceptability of certain agent types in commercial and residential applications. Agents that have the potential of forming toxic byproducts in a fire are usually deemed unsuitable for residential use.<sup>8</sup> Based on this premise the suitability of agents for residential use is summarized in the table below.

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<sup>8</sup> For example, the US EPA defines residential use to mean use by a private individual of a chemical substance or any product containing the chemical substance in or around a permanent or temporary household, during recreation, or for any personal use or enjoyment. Use within a household for commercial or medical applications is not included in this definition, nor is use in automobiles, watercraft, or aircraft.

**Table 3.9: Suitability of fire extinguishing agent alternatives for use in local application fire protection in residential applications**

Substitute	Constituents	Suitable for Residential Use?
Surfactant Blend A	Mixture of organic surfactants and water	Yes
Carbon dioxide (1)	CO <sub>2</sub>	Yes
Water	H <sub>2</sub> O	Yes
Water Mist Systems	H <sub>2</sub> O	Yes
Foam	Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF)	Yes
Dry Chemical	Formulations based on either monoammonium phosphate (MAP) or sodium bicarbonate	Yes
Gelled Halocarbon/Dry Chemical Suspension	Halocarbon plus dry chemical plus gelling agent	Yes
HFC-227ea	CF <sub>3</sub> CHFCF <sub>3</sub>	No
HFC-236fa	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub>	No
FK-5-1-12	CF <sub>3</sub> CF <sub>2</sub> C(O)CF(CF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	No
Hydrofluoro-polyethers	Hydrofluoro-polyethers	No
HCFC Blend B	HCFC-123, 95 mol% min; argon, 0.2 mol% min; CF <sub>4</sub> , 0.4 mol% min	No

Note 1: Avoid use in confined spaces.

### 3.8.1 Assessment of alternative streaming agents

The important features of streaming agent alternatives, manually applied fire extinguishing agents, are described below. In general, portable extinguishers are only used on actual fires and can be readily directed at the burning material.

### 3.8.2 Effectiveness on ordinary combustibles

This parameter considers the ability of the agent to extinguish fires in ordinary solid combustibles, including cellulosic materials. These are called Class A fires and the extinguisher should carry a rating categorising its Class A performance.

### 3.8.3 Effectiveness on liquid fuel fires

This parameter considers the ability of the agent to extinguish liquid fuel fires (Class B). The extinguisher should carry a Class B rating.

### 3.8.4 Electrical conductivity

Minimal conductivity is important in fighting fires where electricity is involved.



**3.8.5 Ability to permeate**

This parameter reflects the ability of the agent to extinguish fires in locations where direct application to the fuel surface or flame reaction zone is not possible, for example, in the hidden void space in a commercial airliner.

**3.8.6 Range**

This parameter reflects the ability of the agent to maintain a coherent effective stream over a distance.

**3.8.7 Effectiveness to weight ratio**

This parameter considers the relative fire suppression capability across all fuels per unit weight of agent.

**3.8.8 Secondary damage**

This category refers to the “clean agent” aspects of the agents, i.e., secondary damage caused by the suppressant agent itself.

**3.8.9 Selection of an alternative streaming agent**

The relative ratings for each parameter have not been rigorously derived and final selection depends on detailed knowledge of the risk to be protected. Some characteristics of several types of streaming agents are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3.10: Portable fire extinguisher capability comparison**

Agent Type	Class A Materials	Class B Flammable Liquids	Suitable for Energized Electrical Hazards	Ability to Permeate	Stream Range	Effective Weight	Secondary Damage
CO <sub>2</sub>	Poor	Fair	Yes	Good	Fair	Poor	Good
Multi-purpose Dry Chemical	Good	Good	Yes	Fair	Good	Good	Poor
AFFF	Good	Fair	No	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor
Water Stream	Good	Poor	No	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor
Water Mist	Good	Fair	Yes	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Halocarbon	Good	Good	Yes	Good	Good	Good	Good
Halon 1211	Good	Good	Yes	Good	Good	Good	Good
Sodium Bicarbonate Dry Chemical	Poor	Good	Yes	Fair	Good	Good	Poor
Potassium Bicarbonate Dry Chemical	Poor	Good	Yes	Fair	Good	Good	Poor

## 4 New and emerging technologies

Manufacturers of fire extinguishing agents and systems continue to develop and offer innovative products to serve for total flooding and local application uses.

### 4.1 HCFO-1233zd(E)

In 2016, Honeywell, a chemical manufacturer, made an application to ISO TC 21 / SC 8 for recognition of HCFO-1233zd(E), as a new total flooding agent. Its chemical name is trans-1-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoropropene and has CAS number 102687-65-0. The chemical received US EPA SNAP approval for this use in October 2016.<sup>9</sup> The manufacturer subsequently suspended support of this chemical as a single-component total flooding agent.

### 4.2 Halocarbon Blend 55

In September 2018, Honeywell, a chemical manufacturer, made an application to ISO TC 21/SC 8 for recognition of a new agent designated “Halocarbon Blend 55.” The agent is a 50 / 50 weight % mixture of FK-5-1-12 and HFO-1233zd(E). The agent was reported to have the following characteristics:

M.W. = 184.7 g/mol                      B.P. = 20.7 °C                      NOAEL = 10 %

GWP (100 years) = 1                      ODP = 0.000

Class A Minimum Extinguishing Concentration = 4.4 vol %

Class B Minimum Extinguishing Concentration = 6.0 vol %

ISO TC 21/SC 8 has agreed to register the project as preliminary work item (PWI) pending satisfactory completion of an administrative requirements.

### 4.3 Trifluoroiodomethane

Trifluoroiodomethane, or CF<sub>3</sub>I, (CAS Number 2314-97-8), has a Class B minimum extinguishing concentration similar to halon 1301. Due to its LOAEL value of 0.4 vol % it is approved for non-occupied areas only and thus has found limited acceptance in extinguishing applications. However, there has been a resurgence in interest in use of this chemical as an extinguishing agent for use in aircraft engine nacelles and auxiliary power units (APUs). For more information on this agent refer to Volume 2 of the Report of the Halons Technical Options Committee, Supplementary Report #1, Civil Aviation, December 2018, HTOC (2018).

### 4.4 Updates from 2014 report

#### 4.4.1 2-BTP

The chemical 2-bromo-3,3,3-trifluoro-prop-1-ene, CAS 1514-82-5 has been the subject of study as a fire extinguishant since before 2000. For brevity this chemical is referred to as “2-BTP.” The

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-11/pdf/2016-24381.pdf> . Note: SNAP approval of substitutes for halons are reviewed on the basis of environmental and health risks, including factors such as ozone depletion potential, global warming potential, toxicity, flammability, and exposure potential. Fire extinguishing effectiveness is not an element of a SNAP review.

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agent has received regulatory approval in both the EU and the US EPA SNAP program for use as a streaming agent. While 2-BTP does contain bromine, as do halons, this chemical has a very short atmospheric lifetime (about 7 days), an ODP of 0.0028 and a GWP of 0.26. As such, this chemical is not deemed as a potentially significant contributor to ozone depletion or global warming. This product has been the subject of study for use as a streaming agent in aircraft portable extinguishers. As of 2017, 2-BTP has been approved for use in commercial aircraft handheld fire extinguishers and at least two aircraft manufacturers are fitting 2-BTP extinguishers to new-build aircraft.

### 4.4.2 C7 Fluoroketone, FK-6-1-14

There is no new information since the 4th edition of this document.

This substitute is a blend of two C7 isomers: 55 – 65% of 3-pentanone, 1,1,1,2,4,5,5,5-octafluoro-2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl), CAS 813-44-5, with balance consisting of 3-hexanone, 1,1,1,2,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-undecafluoro-2-(trifluoromethyl), CAS 813-45-6. This product has been found acceptable under the U.S. EPA SNAP program for use as a streaming agent subject to narrow use limits that require that C7 fluoroketone be used only in non-residential applications.

### 4.4.3 Low GWP Chemicals

There is no new information since the 4th edition of this document.

One manufacturer announced development of three low-GWP chemicals for possible use as fire extinguishants. The manufacturer has not announced the chemical identities of these products but has disclosed some information summarized in Table 4.1. There is no new information since the 4th edition of this document.

**Table 4.1: Properties of developmental halogenated gaseous agents with low GWP**

Product	Flooding agent	Streaming agent #1	Streaming agent #2
Boiling point, °C	31	31	18
Liquid density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1300	1380	1300
MDC, Class A, vol %	5.6	6.1	4.8
MDC, Class B, vol %	6.9	6.9	6.2
NOAEL, vol %	10	1.25	2.5
LOAEL, vol %	12.5	2.5	> 2.5
ODP	0	0	0
100 yr. GWP (est.)	< 2	< 20	< 20

### 4.4.4 Phosphorous tribromide

There is no new information since the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this document.

PBr<sub>3</sub> is a clear liquid with a boiling point of 173 °C. It reacts vigorously with water liberating HBr and phosphoric acid and is, therefore, a highly toxic substance at ambient conditions.

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Though the agent contains bromine, it poses little risk to stratospheric ozone. The agent decomposes rapidly in the atmosphere and the HBr formed is quickly eliminated by precipitation.  $\text{PBr}_3$  is an effective fire extinguishant due to its high bromine content. Given its high boiling point, and low volatility, this agent must be delivered as a spray or mist into the fire zone in order to be effective. It has been commercialized for use as a fire extinguishant in one small aircraft engine application.

### 4.4.5 Water mist technologies

Water mist technologies continue to evolve. Recently commercialized innovations include:

- New atomization technology using two-fluid system (air and water) to create ultrafine mist with spray features that are adjustable by changing the flow ratio of water to air or nitrogen.
- Water mist combined with nitrogen to gain extinguishing benefits of both inert gas and water mist

Each approach to generating fine water mists has its own advantages and drawbacks. Additional comments on water mist systems are given in Sections 2.4 and 3.6.

## 5 Conclusions

There are several in-kind alternatives to halons. These started with HCFCs and PFCs, followed closely by HFCs and inert gases, and more recently by an FK. The HCFCs and PFCs are no longer used in new total flooding fire extinguishing systems and their use is limited to supporting existing systems. Today, for all practical purposes, there are three types of in-kind alternatives to the ozone-depleting fire extinguishants (halons and HCFCs) used in new fire extinguishing systems - these are HFCs, inert gases and an FK. The FK and inert gases also represent low-GWP and no-GWP alternatives to the halons, PFC's, HCFCs and high-GWP HFCs.

Alternative extinguishing agents and technologies are available for nearly all new fire protection applications that previously employed halons, albeit for some applications the only alternatives are the original halon or a high-GWP HFC. A current exception is the fire protection in cargo bays of civil aviation, where no halogenated agents have passed the International Aircraft Systems Fire Protection Working Group Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) for cargo bays. Additionally, some legacy systems (used by the military and in oil and gas production facilities) still require halon as retrofit with current alternatives is not technically or economically feasible at this time.

## 6 Sources

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**Annex A U.S. EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Substitutes in Total Flooding Agents**

Substitutes are reviewed on the basis of environmental and health risks, including factors such as ozone depletion potential, global warming potential, toxicity, flammability, and exposure potential. Lists of **Acceptable** and **Unacceptable** substitutes are updated several times each year. The list of substitutes is shown below.

Note: SNAP-related information published in the Federal Register takes precedence over all information on this page.

The SNAP Listing Dates shown in <https://www.epa.gov/snap/substitutes-total-flooding-agents> contain hyperlinks to U.S. Federal Register publications.

Substitute	ODP	GWP	SNAP Listing Date	Listing Status	Further Information
2-bromo-3,3,3-trifluoropropene (2-BTP)	0.0028	0.23-0.26	1-Dec-16	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use only in engine nacelles and auxiliary power units (APUs) on aircraft.	
[HCFC Blend] A (NAF S-III)	0.048	1,546	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
ATK OS-10	0	<1	2-Jan-09	<b>Acceptable</b>	EPA recommends that users consult Section VIII of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Technical Manual for information on selecting the appropriate types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). EPA recommends that use of this system should be in accordance with the safe exposure guidelines for inert gas systems in the latest edition of NFPA 2001, specifically the requirements for residual oxygen levels, and should be in accordance with the relevant operational requirements in NFPA Standard 2010 for Aerosol

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Substitute	ODP	GWP	SNAP Listing Date	Listing Status	Further Information
					Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1 and 5.
C3F8 (PFC-218, CEA-308)	0	8,830	13-Jun-95; 28-Apr-99	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> Acceptable for non-residential uses where other alternatives are not technically feasible due to performance or safety requirements: (a) because of their physical or chemical properties, or (b) where human exposure to the extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Extinguishing Systems. See rule for detailed conditions.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. The comparative design concentration based on cup burner values is approximately 8.8%. Users should observe the limitations on PFC acceptability by taking the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conduct an evaluation of foreseeable conditions of end use;</li> <li>- determine that the physical or chemical properties or other technical constraints of the other available agents preclude their use;</li> <li>- determine that human exposure to the other alternative extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable use conditions;</li> </ul> Documentation of such measures should be available for review upon request. The principal environmental characteristic of concern for PFCs is that they have high GWPs and long atmospheric lifetimes. Actual contributions to global warming depend upon the quantities of PFCs emitted. For additional guidance regarding applications in which PFCs may be appropriate, users should consult the description of potential uses which is included in the March 18, 1994, final rule (59 FR 13044). See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
C4F10 (PFC-410, CEA-410)	0	8,860	28-Apr-99; 20-Dec-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> Acceptable for non-residential uses where other alternatives are not technically feasible due to performance or safety requirements: (a) because of their physical or chemical properties, or (b) where human exposure to the extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Extinguishing Systems. See rule for detailed	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. The comparative design concentration based on cup burner values is approximately 6.6%.  Users should observe the limitations on PFC acceptability by taking the following measures:



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Substitute	ODP	GWP	SNAP Listing Date	Listing Status	Further Information
				conditions.	<p>- conduct an evaluation of foreseeable conditions of end use;</p> <p>- determine that the physical or chemical properties or other technical constraints of the other available agents preclude their use;</p> <p>- determine that human exposure to the other alternative extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable use conditions;</p> <p>- Documentation of such measures should be available for review upon request.</p> <p>The principal environmental characteristic of concern for PFCs is that they have high GWPs and long atmospheric lifetimes. Actual contributions to global warming depend upon the quantities of PFCs emitted.</p> <p>For additional guidance regarding applications in which PFCs may be appropriate, users should consult the description of potential uses which is included in the March 18, 1994, final rule (59 FR 13044).</p> <p>See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.</p>
C6-perfluoroketone [1,1,1,2,2,4,5,5,5-nonafluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pentanone] (Novec 1230)	0	6 to 100	20-Dec-02	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of the agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. For operations that install and maintain total flooding systems using this agent, EPA recommends the following: - install and use adequate ventilation; clean up all spills immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and provide training for safe handling procedures to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

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<b>Substitute</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>SNAP Listing Date</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
Carbon Dioxide	0	1	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	System design must adhere to OSHA 1910.162(b)(5) and NFPA Standard 12
CF3I	0.008	0.4	13-Jun-95; 29-Jan-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Chlorobromomethane (Halon 1011)	0.07 to 0.15	N/A	28-Apr-99	<b>Unacceptable</b>	Other alternatives exist with zero or lower ODP; OSHA regulations prohibit its use as extinguishing agent in fixed extinguishing systems where employees may be exposed. See 29 CFR 1910.160(b)(11).
Firebane® 1179	0	0	4-Oct-11	<b>Acceptable</b>	Follow the manufacturer's guidelines in the MSDS.
Foam A [formerly Water Mist / Surfactant Blend A] (Phirex+)	N/A	N/A	5-Sep-96	<b>Acceptable</b>	This agent is not a clean agent, but is a low-density, short duration foam.
Gelled Halocarbon /Dry Chemical Suspension (Envirogel) with any additive other than ammonium polyphosphate or sodium bicarbonate	N/A	N/A	29-Jan-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems, for whichever hydrofluorocarbon gas is employed. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Gelled Halocarbon /Dry Chemical Suspension with sodium bicarbonate (Envirogel B25 + 36)	N/A	N/A	27-Sep-06	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> Use of whichever hydrofluorocarbon gas (HFC-125, HFC-227ea, or HFC-236fa) is employed in the formulation must be in accordance with all requirements for acceptability (i.e., narrowed use limits) of that HFC under EPA's SNAP program.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems, for whichever hydrofluorocarbon gas is employed, and the latest edition of the NFPA 2010 standard for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems. Sodium bicarbonate release in all settings should be targeted so that increased blood pH level would not adversely affect exposed individuals. Users should provide special training, including the potential hazards associated with the use of the HFC agent and sodium bicarbonate, to individuals required to be in environments protected by Envirogel with sodium bicarbonate additive extinguishing systems. Each

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<b>Substitute</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>SNAP Listing Date</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
					extinguisher should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards from use and safe handling procedures. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HBFC-22B1 (FM-100)	N/A	N/A		<b>UnAcceptable</b>	HBFC-22B1 is a Class I ozone-depleting substance with an ozone depletion potential of 0.74. The manufacturer of this agent terminated production of this agent January 1, 1996, except for critical uses, and removed it from the market because it is a fetal toxin.
HCFC-124 (FE-241)	0.022	609	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HCFC-22	0.055	1,810	18-Mar-94; 20-Jul-15	<b>UnAcceptable</b> as of September 18, 2015.	
HFC Blend B (Halotron II®)	0	1,598	29-Jan-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-125 (FE 25)	0	3,500	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-125 with 0.1% d-limonene (NAF S-125)	0	3,500 (HFC-125); 10 (d-limonene)	21-Aug-03	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of the agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. Extinguisher bottles should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards associated with the use of HFC-125 and d-limonene, as well as handling procedures to reduce risk resulting from these hazards. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-134a	0	1,430	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of blends containing this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. The NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems gives guidelines

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					for blends that contain HFC-134a or HCFC-22 and other <b>Acceptable</b> total flooding agents, rather than referring to HFC-134a or HCFC-22 alone. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-227ea (FM-200, FE-227)	0	3,220	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-227ea with 0.1% d-limonene (NAF S 227)	0	3,220 (HFC-227ea); 10 (d-limonene)	1-Oct-04	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of the agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. Extinguisher bottles should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards associated with the use of HFC-227ea and d-limonene, as well as handling procedures to reduce risk resulting from these hazards. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-23 (FE-13)	0	14,800	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HFC-236fa (FE-36)	0	9,810	28-Apr-99; 29-Jan-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> Acceptable when manufactured using any process that does not convert perfluoroisobutylene (PFIB) directly to HFC-236fa in a single step:—for use in explosion suppression and explosion inertion applications, and —for use in fire suppression applications where other non-PFC agents or alternatives are not technically feasible due to performance or safety requirements: (a) because of their physical or chemical properties, or (b) where human exposure to the extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable use conditions.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. The comparative design concentration based on cup burner values is approximately 6.4%.  Users should observe the limitations on HFC-236fa acceptability by taking the following measures:  - conduct an evaluation of foreseeable conditions of end use; - determine that the physical or chemical properties or other technical constraints of the other available agents preclude their use; - determine that human exposure to the other alternative

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					<p>extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable use conditions;</p> <p>- Documentation of such measures should be available for review upon request.</p> <p>Feasible for use in a normally occupied area.</p> <p>The principal environmental characteristic of concern for HFC-236fa is its high GWP of 9400 and long atmospheric lifetime of 226 years. Actual contributions to global warming depend upon the quantities emitted.</p> <p>See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.</p>
HFC-32	0	675		<b>UnAcceptable</b>	This agent is flammable.
HFC227-BC	0	3,800	27-Jan-03	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> Sodium bicarbonate release in all settings should be targeted so that increased pH level would not adversely affect exposed individuals. Users should provide special training to individuals required to be in environments protected by HFC227-BC extinguishing systems. Each HFC227-BC extinguisher should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards from use and safe handling procedures.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
IG-01 (Argotec; formally Inert Gas Blend C)	0	0	28-Jul-95	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 5.
IG-100 (NN 100)	0	0	26-Apr-00	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 5.
IG-541 (Inergen)	0	0	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard

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					for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. This agent contains CO <sub>2</sub> , which is intended to increase blood oxygenation and cerebral blood flow in low oxygen atmospheres. The design concentration should result in no more than 5% CO <sub>2</sub> . See additional comments 1, 2, 5.
IG-55 (Argonite; formally Inert Gas Blend B)	0	0	28-Jul-95	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. See additional comments 1, 2, 5.
Inert Gas/Powdered Aerosol Blend (FS 0140)	0	1	13-Jun-95	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only. Any employee who could possibly be in the area must be able to escape within 30 seconds. The employer shall assure that no unprotected employees enter the area during discharge.	The manufacturer's SNAP application requested listing for use in unoccupied areas only. See additional comment 2.
N2 Towers® System	0	<1	4-Oct-11	<b>Acceptable</b>	EPA recommends that use of this system should be in accordance with the safe exposure guidelines for inert gas systems in the latest edition of NFPA 2001 Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems, specifically the requirements for residual oxygen levels, and use should be in accordance with the NFPA Standard 2010 for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems.
Phosphorus tribromide (PhostrEx)	0.01 - 0.08	0	27-Sep-06	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use only in aircraft engine nacelles.	For establishments manufacturing the agent or filling, installing, or servicing containers or systems, EPA recommends the following: adequate ventilation should be in place and/or positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) should be worn; training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent; and all spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Powdered Aerosol A (SFE)	N/A	N/A	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	

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Powdered Aerosol C (PyroGen, Soyuz)	N/A	N/A	8-Feb-96	<b>Acceptable:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	
Powdered Aerosol D (Aero K/Stat X)	0	N/A	27-Sep-06; 21-Oct-14; 1-Dec-16	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2010 standard for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems. For establishments manufacturing the agent or filling, installing, or servicing containers or systems to be used in total flooding applications, EPA recommends the following: adequate ventilation should be in place to reduce airborne exposure to constituents of agent; an eye wash fountain and quick drench facility should be close to the production area; training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent; workers responsible for clean up should allow for maximum settling of all particulates before reentering area and wear appropriate protective equipment; and - all spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Powdered Aerosol E (Fire Pro)	0	N/A	27-Sep-06	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2010 standard for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems. For establishments manufacturing the agent or filling, installing, or servicing containers or systems to be used in total flooding applications, EPA recommends the following: adequate ventilation should be in place to reduce airborne exposure to constituents of agent; an eye wash fountain and quick drench facility should be close to the production area; training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent; workers responsible for clean up should allow for maximum settling of all particulates before reentering area and wear appropriate protective equipment; and - all spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

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Substitute	ODP	GWP	SNAP Listing Date	Listing Status	Further Information
Powdered Aerosol F (KSA®)	0	0	19-Sep-12	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2010 standard for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems. For establishments filling, installing, servicing, using, or disposing of containers or systems to be used in total flooding applications, EPA recommends the following: appropriate protective clothing (e.g., goggles, particulate removing respirators, and gloves) should be worn during the installation and maintenance of the extinguishing units filled with the agent or during clean up and disposal of this agent; training should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent, required to clean up after discharge or required to work near spaces protected by Powdered Aerosol F. Releases in all settings should be limited to an appropriate design concentration for the protected space so that increased blood pH level would not adversely affect exposed individuals. Exposed individuals should be given an electrolyte solution to drink afterwards to restore the pH within the appropriate range. Each extinguisher should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards from use and safe handling procedures. In the case of an accidental spill, the area should be well-ventilated, and workers should wear protective equipment while following good industrial hygiene practices for clean-up and disposal. See additional comments 1, 2, 4, 5.
Powdered Aerosol G (Dry Sprinkler Powdered Aerosol (DSPA) Fixed Generators)	0	<1	19-Sep-12	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use in normally unoccupied areas only.	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the NFPA 2010 standard for Aerosol Extinguishing Systems. DSPA generators produce combustion byproducts (micron-sized dry particles and a gaseous mixture), that mix together into a uniform fire-extinguishing aerosol before being released into the protected area. The propellant components of the system generates inert gases, which function to physically extinguish the fire by the combined effects of straining the burning flame front and reducing the heat of the combustion sources. The small aerosol particles have a



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					<p>high surface area-to-volume ratio, which increases their ability to rapidly distribute throughout enclosed areas and to act as heat sinks. For establishments filling, installing, servicing, using or disposing of generator units or systems in total flooding applications, EPA recommends the appropriate protective clothing (e.g., goggles, particulate removing respirators, and gloves) should be worn during the installation and maintenance of the extinguishing units filled with the agent or during clean up and disposal of this agent. Powdered Aerosol G should be collected by hand (e.g., with a dustpan and duster or a vacuum cleaner); waste should be collected in suitable drums for disposal and the area should be washed clean with sufficient quantities of water; and training should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle the agent or generator units filled containing the agent, required to clean up after discharge or required to work near spaces protected by Powdered Aerosol G fixed generator total flooding systems. In accordance with Department of Health and Human Services regulations (42 CFR Part 84), safety glasses and a NIOSH/CDC-approved N99 respirator are required for individuals installing Powdered Aerosol G fixed systems. Each generator unit should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards from use and safe handling procedures. In the case of an accidental discharge, the area should be well-ventilated, and workers should wear protective equipment while following good industrial hygiene practices for clean-up and disposal. See additional comments 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.</p>
SF6	0	22,800	29-Jan-02	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> Only for use as a discharge agent in military applications and in civilian aircraft.	Users should limit testing only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. This agent is used only to test new Halon 1301 systems.
Solution of 50% potassium acetate and 50% water (K-Ace)	0	0	17-May-13	<b>Acceptable</b>	EPA recommends that use of this system should be in accordance with the manufacturer's MSDS. EPA recommends that users consult Section VIII of the OSHA Technical Manual for information on selecting the appropriate types of personal protective equipment for all

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					listed fire suppression agents. EPA has no intention of duplicating or displacing OSHA coverage related to the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection), fire protection, hazard communication, worker training or any other occupational safety and health standard with respect to EPA's regulation of halon substitutes. Use must conform to relevant OSHA requirements, including 29 CFR Part 1910, subpart L, sections 1910.160 and 1910.162.
Surfactant Blend A (Cold Fire®)	0	0	10-Aug-12	<b>Acceptable</b>	Observe recommendations in the manufacturer's MSDS and guidance for using this substitute.
Trans-1-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-ene (Solstice® FS)	0.00024 – 0.001512	4.7-7	11-Oct-16	<b>Acceptable</b>	Use of this agent should be in accordance with the safety guidelines in the latest edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2001 Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems. Safety features that are typical of total flooding systems such as pre-discharge alarms, time delays, and system abort switches should be provided, as directed by applicable OSHA regulations and NFPA standards. See additional comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Uni-light Advanced Fire Fighting Foam 1% water mist system (Uni-light AFFF 1%)	0	Negligible	29-Mar-06	<b>Acceptable</b>	This agent is intended for use onboard ships and in off-shore installations. It may be used both in normally occupied and unoccupied areas. Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn during manufacture or in the event of a release. Personal protective equipment should include safety goggles, protective gloves, and a self-contained breathing apparatus. Supply bottles for the foam should be clearly labeled with the potential hazards associated with the use of the chemicals in the foam, as well as handling procedures to reduce risk resulting from these hazards. Use should conform with relevant OSHA requirements, including 29 CFR1910, Subpart L, Sections 1910.160
Victaulic Vortex Systems	0	0	2-Jan-09	<b>Acceptable</b>	EPA recommends that users consult Section VIII of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Technical Manual for information on selecting the appropriate types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). EPA recommends that use of this system should be

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					in accordance with the safe exposure guidelines for inert gas systems in the latest edition of NFPA 2001, specifically the requirements for residual oxygen levels, and should be in accordance with the relevant operational requirements in NFPA 750 Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems.
Water	0	0	18-Mar-94	<b>Acceptable</b>	

### Additional Comments

1. Must conform with OSHA 29 CFR 1910 Subpart L Sections 1910.160 and 1910.162.
2. Per OSHA requirements, protective gear (SCBA) must be available in the event personnel must reenter the area.
3. Discharge testing should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements.
4. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.
5. EPA recommends that users consult Section VIII of the OSHA Technical Manual for information on selecting the appropriate types of personal protective equipment for all listed fire suppression agents. EPA has no intention of duplicating or displacing OSHA coverage related to the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection), fire protection, hazard communication, worker training or any other occupational safety and health standard with respect to EPA's regulation of halon substitutes.
6. The NFPA 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems gives guidelines for blends that contain HFC-134a or HCFC-22 and other **Acceptable** total flooding agents, rather than referring to HFC-134a or HCFC-22 alone.

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**Annex B U.S. EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Substitutes in Streaming Agents**

Substitutes are reviewed on the basis of environmental and health risks, including factors such as ozone depletion potential, global warming potential, toxicity, flammability, and exposure potential. Lists of acceptable and Unacceptable substitutes are updated several times each year. The list of substitutes is shown below.

Note: SNAP-related information published in the Federal Register takes precedence over all information on this page.

The SNAP Listing Dates shown in <https://www.epa.gov/snap/substitutes-streaming-agents> contain hyperlinks to U.S. Federal Register publications.

<b>Substitute</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>SNAP Listing Date</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
2-bromo-3,3,3-trifluoropropene (2-BTP)	0.0028	0.23-0.26	1-Dec-16	<b>Acceptable with Use Conditions:</b> For use only in handheld extinguishers in aircraft.	
[HCFC Blend] B (Halotron 1)	0.0098	77	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
[HCFC Blend] C (NAF P-III)	N/A	N/A	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
[HCFC Blend] D (Blitz III)	N/A	N/A	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
[HCFC Blend] E (NAF P-IV)	0.02	N/A	April 26, 2000	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	As with other streaming agents, EPA recommends that potential risks of combustion byproducts be labeled on the extinguisher (see UL 2129). Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.
[HCFC Blend] B (Halotron 1)	0.0098	77	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	

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<b>Substitute</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>SNAP Listing Date</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
[HCFC Blend] C (NAF P-III)	N/A	N/A	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
[HCFC Blend] D (Blitz III)	N/A	N/A	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
[HCFC Blend] E (NAF P-IV)	0.02	N/A	April 26, 2000	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	As with other streaming agents, EPA recommends that potential risks of combustion byproducts be labeled on the extinguisher (see UL 2129). Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.
Surfactant Blend] A [Cold Fire, FlameOut, Fire Strike]	N/A	N/A	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	
C <sub>6</sub> -perfluoroketone [1,1,1,2,2,4,5,5,5-nonafluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pentanone] (Novec 1230)	0	6 to 100	January 27, 2003	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	For operations that fill canisters to be used in streaming applications, EPA recommends the following:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- install and use adequate ventilation ;</li> <li>- clean up all spills immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and</li> <li>- provide training for safe handling procedures to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent.</li> </ul> Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed. As with other streaming agents, EPA recommends that potential risks of combustion by-products be labeled on the extinguisher (see UL 2129). EPA has no intention of duplicating or displacing OSHA coverage related to the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection), fire protection, hazard communication, worker training or any other occupational safety and health standard with respect to halon substitutes.

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<b>Substitute</b>	<b>ODP</b>	<b>GWP</b>	<b>SNAP Listing Date</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>14</sub> (PFC-614, CEA-614)	0	9,300	April 28, 1999	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses where other alternatives are not technically feasible due to performance or safety requirements: a. because of their physical or chemical properties, or b. where human exposure to the extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable narrowed use limits.	<p>Users should observe the limitations on PFC acceptability by making reasonable effort to undertake the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conduct an evaluation of foreseeable conditions of end use;</li> <li>- determine that the physical or chemical properties or other technical constraints of the other available agents preclude their use; and</li> <li>- determine that human exposure to the other alternative extinguishing agents may result in failure to meet applicable narrowed use limits; Documentation of such measures should be available for review upon request.</li> </ul> <p>The principal environmental characteristic of concern for PFCs is that they have high GWPs and long atmospheric lifetimes. Actual contributions to global warming depend upon the quantities of PFCs emitted. For additional guidance regarding applications in which PFCs may be appropriate, users should consult the description of potential uses which is included in the March 18, 1994, Final Rule (59 FR 13044). Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.</p>
C <sub>7</sub> Fluoroketone	0	1	September 19, 2012	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	<p>Use of this agent should be in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA Standard 10 for Portable Fire Extinguishers.</p> <p>For operations that fill canisters to be used in streaming applications, EPA recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adequate ventilation should be in place;</li> <li>-All spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and</li> <li>-Training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle</li> </ul>

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					containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent.  This substitute is a blend of 3-pentanone,1,1,1,2,4,5,5,5-octafluoro-2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl) (Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number [CAS Reg. No.] 813-44-5) and 3-hexanone,1,1,1,2,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-undecafluoro-2-(trifluoromethyl) (CAS Reg. No. 813-45-6). See additional comments 1,2,3,4.
Carbon Dioxide	0	1	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	
CF <sub>3</sub> I	0.008	0.4	May 22, 1996	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
CFC-11	1	4,750		<b>Unacceptable</b>	This agent has been suggested for use on large outdoor fires for which non-ozone depleting alternatives are currently available. In addition, CAA section 610 bans the use of CFCs in portable extinguishers.
Dry Chemical	0	0	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	
Firebane® 1115	0	0	October 4, 2011	<b>Acceptable</b>	Follow the manufacturer's guidelines in the MSDS. EPA recommends that use of these systems be in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Extinguishers.
Firebane® 1170	0	0	October 4, 2011	<b>Acceptable</b>	Follow the manufacturer's guidelines in the MSDS. EPA recommends that use of these systems be in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Extinguishers.
Firebane® 1179	0	0	October 4, 2011	<b>Acceptable</b>	Follow the manufacturer's guidelines in the MSDS. EPA recommends that use of these systems be in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Extinguishers.
Firebane® All-Weather 1115	0	0	October 4, 2011	<b>Acceptable</b>	Follow the manufacturer's guidelines in the MSDS. EPA recommends that use of these systems be in accordance with the latest edition of NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Extinguishers.
Foam	N/A	N/A	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	

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Gelled Halocarbon / Dry Chemical Suspension	N/A	N/A	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	Allowable in the residential use market.
H Galden HFPEs	0	2,790 - 6,230	January 27, 2003	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	<p>For operations that fill canisters to be used in streaming applications, EPA recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- install and use adequate ventilation ;</li> <li>- clean up all spills immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and</li> <li>- provide training for safe handling procedures to all employees that would be likely to handle containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent.</li> </ul> <p>Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed. As with other streaming agents, EPA recommends that potential risks of combustion by-products be labeled on the extinguisher (see UL 2129). EPA has no intention of duplicating or displacing OSHA coverage related to the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection), fire protection, hazard communication, worker training or any other occupational safety and health standard with respect to halon substitutes.</p>
HCFC-123 (FE-232)	0.02	77	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
HCFC-124 (FE-241)	0.022	609	August 26, 1994	<b>Acceptable:</b> For non-residential uses only.	
HFC-227ea (FM 200)	0	3,220	April 28, 1999	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> For non-residential uses only.	Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.



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HFC-236fa (FE-36)	0	9,810	April 28, 1999	<b>Acceptable with Narrowed Use Limits:</b> Acceptable in non-residential uses when manufactured using any process that does not convert perfluoroisobutylene (PFIB) directly to HFC-236fa in a single step.	Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements.  The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.  Acceptable for local application systems inside textile process machinery.
Water	0	0	March 18, 1994	<b>Acceptable</b>	
Water Mist Systems using Potable or Natural Sea Water	0	0	July 28, 1995	<b>Acceptable</b>	

### Additional Comments

1. Discharge testing and training should be strictly limited only to that which is essential to meet safety or performance requirements.
2. The agent should be recovered from the fire protection system in conjunction with testing or servicing, and recycled for later use or destroyed.
3. As with other streaming agents, EPA recommends that potential risks of combustion by-products be labeled on the extinguisher (see UL 2129)
4. EPA has no intention of duplicating or displacing OSHA coverage related to the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., respiratory protection), fire protection, hazard communication, worker training or any other occupational safety and health standard with respect to halon substitutes.