



Do you handle scheduled gases in facility management?

Commercial and industrial premises across Australia have many different types of gaseous fire suppression systems and equipment

These systems often use scheduled extinguishing agents, including:

- Halocarbons (e.g. FM-200®; HFC227ea);
- Inert gases (e.g. nitrogen, argon and nitrogen mixtures, argon, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide mixtures); and
- Perfluoro ketones (e.g. Novec 1230™; FK 5-1-12)

Understanding how extinguishing agents in your gaseous fire suppression system are regulated under national law has many benefits including protecting your workers and the environment.

Did you know...

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGG) used in the Australian fire protection industry are regulated by law under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* (The Act) and the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* (The Regulations).

The Ozone legislation is in place to:

Promote the responsible management of scheduled substances to minimise their impact on the atmosphere.

- Provide controls on the manufacture, import, export, and use of SGGs under the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.
- Provide controls on the handling, use, acquisition, storage, and disposal of scheduled substances.
- Encourage industry to replace ozone depleting substances.
- Ensure Australia meets its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

FPIB Recommendations

The Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board recommends site and building managers take on board the following recommendations for ultimate fire protection and to stay in compliance with legislation:

- Technicians installing, servicing, maintaining or decommissioning systems containing scheduled extinguishing agents must hold an Extinguishing Agent Handling Licence (EAHL).
- Technicians should also keep up to date on new technologies for dealing with gaseous fire suppression systems.
- Regular service and maintenance of gaseous fire suppression systems. This will ensure that the systems are fully functional in the event of a fire.
- The use of logbooks to record all maintenance activity. Proper documentation will provide a full life-cycle history for a particular gaseous fire suppression system. Not only will all maintenance activity be recorded but the logbooks also provide historical records of the licence number of the technicians servicing the system.

Who requires a licence?

By law all individuals and companies in the building industry handling any Ozone Depleting Substances or Scheduled Greenhouse Gases must hold the appropriate licence or authorisations. These are issued by the FPIB.

- Any person in the building industry who handles ozone depleting or synthetic greenhouse gas, listed in the Act, where there is a risk of emission requires the appropriate **Extinguishing Agent Handling Licence(s) (EAHL)**.
- Any person or company who buys, stores or sells extinguishing agents must hold an **Extinguishing Agent Trading Authorisation (EATA)**.

