



Fire safety and the marine industry

Fire protection is an essential component of marine safety equipment

Depending on the vessel size, gaseous fire suppression systems can protect:

- Internal Combustion
- Gas Turbines
- Main or Auxiliary Propulsion
- Machinery Spaces
- Paint and Oil Lockers
- Pump Rooms
- Control Rooms

Gaseous fire suppression systems will be found in most vessels including:

- Passenger Ferries
- Police Vessels
- Barges
- Car Ferries
- Tugs
- Major Ferries Generally

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 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.

Gases in local commercial vessels and their use:

- FM-200®, FE-227™ and NAF-SIII are most commonly used because of their ability to act as leading alternatives to halon.
- FM-200® can protect from most of the hazards that halon does, but is less toxic.
- Halon systems are not permitted.
- Scheduled extinguishing agents, FM-200®, FE-227™ and NAF-SIII, must be obtained from companies holding an EATA.

FPIB Recommendations

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

- Builders/owners/operators of vessels with gaseous fire suppression systems containing scheduled extinguishing agents must ensure that the installation and maintenance of these systems is done by licensed technicians.
- All technicians working with scheduled extinguishing agents must hold the appropriate licence, authorisation or permit.
- Regular service and maintenance of gaseous fire suppression systems to ensure full functionality in the event of a fire.

While there is no requirement to replace systems, owners should consider changing systems to environmentally friendly alternatives. For example, owners may consider systems which use Novec™ 1230, inert gas or condensed aerosols. The system replacement could be timed with a major service of the system – at the appropriate period for a hydrostatic test for example.

Who requires a licence?

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

- Vessel owners and operators do not need to be licensed, but have obligations to prevent emissions of scheduled extinguishing agents.
- Technicians installing, servicing, maintaining or decommissioning systems containing scheduled extinguishing agents must hold an **Extinguishing Agent Handling Licence (EAHL)**.
- Technicians or companies who buy, store and/or sell scheduled extinguishing agents must hold an **Extinguishing Agent Trading Authorisation (EATA)**.
- Foreign flagged vessels can acquire halon when they are in Australian waters and technicians servicing systems on foreign flagged vessels must hold an **EAHL**.

