



Do you handle scheduled gases in your mine site?

Where are scheduled substances found in the mining industry?

Gaseous fire suppression systems and equipment are found in both underground and open-cut mines. Sites could have a combination of scheduled and non-scheduled gaseous fire suppression systems, depending on the risks associated at various sites.

They can be found safeguarding:

- control centres
- conveyor systems
- switch rooms
- auxiliary power supply facilities
- heavy-duty mobile equipment:
 - bucket wheel excavators
 - dump/haul trucks
 - hydraulic shovels
 - wheeled loaders

Substances used in the industry

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).

Scheduled substances

The most used ODS and SGG scheduled extinguishing substances on mine sites include FM-200®, FE227™, NAF-SIII and NAF-PIII.

These substances are used because they:

- are non-conductors of electricity
- have favourable environmental properties
- are clean and leave no residue
- cause minimal damage to equipment.

Non-scheduled substances

Non-scheduled substances used in suppression systems, such as CO₂, water-mist and inert gases (nitrogen and argon) are excluded from the Act and Regulations.

FPIB Recommendations

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

- Operators of mining sites with gaseous fire suppression systems containing scheduled extinguishing substances must ensure that the installation and maintenance of these systems is done by licensed technicians.
- All technicians working with scheduled extinguishing substances must hold the appropriate licence, authorisation or permit.
- Gaseous fire suppression systems must be regularly serviced and maintained to ensure full functionality in the event of a fire.

Who requires a licence?

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

- Technicians installing, servicing, maintaining or decommissioning systems containing scheduled extinguishing substances must hold an **Extinguishing Agent Handling Licence (EAHL)**.
- Technicians or companies who buy, store and/or sell scheduled extinguishing substances must hold an **Extinguishing Agent Trading Authorisation (EATA)**.

