

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.126

National Policy

Effective Date:
6/24/10

Cancellation Date:
6/24/11

SUBJ: Possible Contamination of Halon in Handheld Fire Extinguishers

- 1. Purpose of this Notice.** This notice provides information to certificated repair stations regarding possible contamination of Halon in handheld fire extinguishers. Also, this notice establishes which repair stations perform Halon servicing for future coordination efforts.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) principal inspectors (PIs) with certificate management responsibilities for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 145 repair stations. The secondary audience includes the Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice at <http://fsims.faa.gov>.
- 4. Background.** On November 25, 2009, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) published Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2009-0251-E stipulating that significant quantities of contaminated Halon gas (used in handheld fire extinguishers) were determined to be outside the required specifications and have been supplied to the aviation industry. The contaminated nature of this gas when used against a fire may lead to the release of toxic fumes possibly causing injury to aircraft occupants, and/or may affect its firefighting capabilities.
 - a. ADs Issued.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued AD 2010-01-03 and is currently drafting two additional ADs in response to the EASA ADs. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has issued a letter dated January 12, 2010 requesting that quality checks be conducted of Halon.
 - b. Quality Checks for Contamination.** Halon distributors perform quality checks by adhering to the established international standards within the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Designation 5632-08, ASTM Designation 5631-08, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 7201-1, and ISO 7201-2. Repair stations do not necessarily follow those standards, as they rely upon the distributors to perform quality checks. The probability of cross-contamination when a fire extinguisher enters a repair station for maintenance is possible, since the contaminated Halon issue has been occurring for 7 years.

c. Validate Contamination. Given the amount of time that has elapsed and the significant quantity of Halon affected, it would not be feasible to validate for contaminants through records research, since air agencies are required to keep records of work for only 2 years.

d. Recycled Halon. Given that the availability of pure Halon supplies is dwindling, civil aviation will increasingly rely upon the use of recycled Halon. The purity of recycled Halon reserves is critical to maintaining the fire extinguishing systems installed onboard aircraft today.

5. Required Action. This notice requires PIs assigned to part 145 repair stations holding a rating for “Limited Emergency Equipment” performing fire extinguisher maintenance and Halon servicing to ensure they are aware of the contamination issue, are to accomplish the following actions:

a. Document Distribution. PIs are requested to visit their part 145 repair station within the next 30 days and provide the repair station with a copy of the EASA-published Emergency AD 2009-0251-E and FAA AD 2010-01-03.

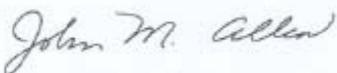
b. Record-Making Process. When the PI completes this action, record it as follows:

(1) Record the results of the visit and record within the “National Use” block of the Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) using code: HALON1211. This will enable further evaluation and risk analysis once the true extent of the contamination is determined.

(2) Use PTRS code 5391/3391.

(3) The PI will include the details of his or her onsite visit in the “Comments” section.

6. Disposition. We will not incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before the notice expires. Direct questions concerning this notice to the Air Carrier Maintenance Branch, AFS-330, at 202-385-6426.



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