



# Federal Aviation Administration

## National Part 139 CertAlert

\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\*

**Date:** 9/13/2023 **No. 23-07**

**To:** Airport Operators, FAA Airport Certification Safety  
Inspectors, ARFF Departments and Mutual Aid Providers

**Subject:** Availability of Fluorine Free Foam (F3) on the Navy's Qualified Products List (QPL)

**Point of Contact:** Marc Tonnacliff or Jim Price AAS-300, 202-267-8732  
Email: [marc.tonnacliff@faa.gov](mailto:marc.tonnacliff@faa.gov)  
[jim.price@faa.gov](mailto:jim.price@faa.gov)

### 1. Purpose. The purpose of this CertAlert is to:

- a. Notify Part 139 airports and industry there are F3 foam(s) that currently meet Military Specification (MIL-SPEC) that can now be used on Part 139 airports.
- b. Alert readers that the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) has begun populating their Quality Product List (QPL) web page with approved F3 concentrates. See [QPD Search \(dla.mil\)](https://dla.mil).
- c. The Navy will continue to update the QPL as additional products are qualified.

### 2. Background.

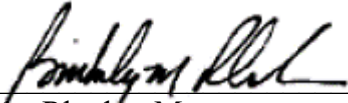
- a. The FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center, the Naval Research Lab, and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center researched F3 to assist in the development of a new military performance standard for aircraft firefighting. The result of several years of research and testing is the new Military Specification MIL-PRF-32725, *Fire Extinguishing Agent, Fluorine-Free Foam*, dated January 12, 2023.
- b. On January 12, 2023, the FAA announced to airports it will accept the airport operator's use of an F3 extinguishing agent at Certificated Part 139 airports once the agent passes the military performance standards (MIL-PRF-32725) and has been added to the Navy's Qualified Products' List (QPL)/ Qualified Products' Database (QPD). (See [Part 139 CertAlert 23-01: New Military Specification for Performance-Based Standards for Fluorine-Free Aircraft Fire Fighting Foam](#)).
- c. At this time, the FAA is not requiring Certificated Part 139 airports to transition to MIL-PRF-32725 foams. They may continue using AFFF listed on the QPL for MIL-F-24385, *Fire*

*Extinguishing Agent, Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Liquid Concentrate, for Fresh and Seawater.*

- d. On May 8, 2023, the FAA coordinated with DoD, the Environmental Protection Agency, and industry partners to produce the *Aircraft Firefighting Foam Transition Plan* to assist airports who transition to F3 foams. The Plan is located on the FAA's F3 Transition webpage: [Fluorine-Free Foam \(F3\) Transition for Aircraft Firefighting](#).

**3. Additional Guidance.**

- a. Certificated Part 139 airport operators are reminded that F3 concentrates lack mixing compatibility with other F3 and AFFF concentrates. Further, F3 should never be mixed with water in vehicles or in storage tanks. F3 cannot be used as a premixed solution.
- b. It is acceptable for Part 139 airports to use both types of foam (AFFF and F3) until the airport is able to fully transition over to F3. Research has not shown any negative effects of using both foams on a fire.
- c. The FAA will continue to provide more information on the F3 Transition webpage as it becomes available.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Birke Rhodes, Manager  
Airport Safety and Operations Division, AAS-300

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/8/2023  
Date