



EASA Safety Information Bulletin

SIB No.: 2009-39R1
Issued: 10 November 2011

Subject: Contaminated Halon 1211 (BFC) and 1301 (BTM) Supplies

Ref. Publications: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) United Kingdom (UK) Flight Operations Communication (FODCOM) [30/2009](#) and CAA UK Airworthiness Communication (AIRCOM) [2009/13](#), both dated 12 October 2009.

Applicability: All persons, companies and organisations procuring Halon 1211 (BCF) and/or Halon 1301 (BTM) for use in aircraft fire extinguishers, or for use in fire extinguishers on ground, i.e. on airfields and airports.

Description: In 2009, the CAA UK informed EASA that a supplier of Halon 1211 and Halon 1301 had been deliberately falsifying sample test reports, in order to sell contaminated Halon.

Halon 1211 (BCF) is used in handheld fire extinguishers, , usually fitted or stowed in aircraft cabins and some built in engine/auxiliary power units (APU) systems, while Halon 1301 (BTM) is used mainly in fire extinguishing systems for aircraft engines, APU and aircraft cargo compartments.

This has resulted in the issuance of several EASA Airworthiness Directives (ADs), requiring many handheld Halon 1211 fire extinguishers to be removed from service. However, no ADs have been considered necessary for engine/APU systems.

The following ADs remain valid at the time of issuance of this SIB:

[AD 2009-0251-E](#) dated 25 November 2009,
[AD 2009-0278](#) dated 22 December 2009,
[AD 2009-0262R1](#) dated 27 January 2010,
[AD 2010-0012](#) dated 05 February 2010,
[AD 2009-0277R1](#) dated 05 February 2010,
[AD 2010-0061](#) dated 31 March 2010, and
[AD 2010-0062R1](#) dated 17 May 2010.

In accordance with the Montreal Protocol, new Halon production has now been prohibited for several years. Therefore, the vast majority of Halon now available comes

from recycling. During the collection of Halon for recycling there are opportunities for contamination to occur.

Recommendations: Organizations that are involved in either the production of new equipment containing Halon for aviation use, or the overhaul of aviation equipment and re-filling with Halon, are reminded of the need to perform an independent check for conformity to the appropriate standard. If in doubt, check with the equipment manufacturer regarding the appropriate standard. This recommendation is applicable for all types of Halon, e.g. 1211, 1301, 2402 and any blend of these.

It is insufficient to put reliance for Halon purity only on documentation provided by the seller of the Halon.

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