

Duties of the System Owner and Others for Prevention of ODS & SGG Emissions



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Supporting licensing under the
provisions of the *Ozone Protection
and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management
Regulations 1995*

April 2006

Note: This Fact Sheet was produced by the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Heritage to aid the implementation of new regulations. Regulations are subject to change and update and the official, current version of regulations should be used for legal interpretation. You are advised to seek further advice from the Department of the Environment and Heritage in regard to *specific* interpretations of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and any matter regarding the implementation of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*.

Background

Implementation of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* and the requirements for practitioners working with ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents to hold the appropriate Extinguishing Agent Handling Licences (EAHL's) resulted in questions from the fire protection industry as follows:

Questions

1. Do cleaners who have to isolate a system prior to entering a compartment and may cause the system to discharge ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents need to hold an appropriate EAHL?
2. Do pilots who conduct pre flight or other tests that may cause a fire protection system to discharge ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents need to hold an appropriate EAHL?

3. Do transport drivers who carry ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents need to hold an appropriate EAHL?
4. Do those people who work in IT room local control centres need to hold an appropriate EAHL?

The short answer is 'no'.

The *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* are intended to provide end-use management of controlled extinguishing agents. One way of achieving this is to licence technicians working with the ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents in such a manner that their duties involve the potential to cause an emission of the agent. However, the licensing provisions do not apply to cleaners and pilots. Certain responsibilities in regard to 'non technicians' who have access to the fire protection system in such a manner as may have a potential for discharge rest with the owner of the system.

The owner of the fire protection system that contains ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents is responsible to ensure the following:

1. that anyone who has access to the fire protection system in such a manner as may have a potential to cause a discharge has been appropriately trained in the correct way to perform their duties so that an emission is not caused, and
2. that any discharge of ODS and SGG fire extinguishing agents is reported to the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board within five days of the discharge occurring.

Note: Under the regulations, any dry powder fire extinguisher or extinguishing system that uses a CFC, HCFC or HFC as a propellant, must be maintained by a technician who holds the appropriate licence.

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FPA Australia, a not-for-profit member association, is Australia's major technical and educational fire safety organisation. FPA Australia was selected in 2004 to be the implementing agency on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Heritage in regard to the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*.

FPA Australia plays a pivotal role in providing authoritative advice and information on all aspects of fire safety and emergency management through a range of services to industry, commerce and the community at large. The Association also provides a forum for bringing together practitioners and professionals who deliver a broad range of products and services.

FPA Australia's prime objective is the best possible fire safety for the community. The Association also provides a wide range of services to its members and has a permanently staffed national office.