

What is the Fire Protection Industry Permit Scheme?

Additional information



Fire Protection Industry
(ODS & SGG) Board

The Fire Protection Industry Permit Scheme aims to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances and greenhouse gases used in the fire protection industry, and is administered by the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board (FPIB) on behalf of the Australian Government.

What is a scheduled extinguishing substance?

Scheduled fire protection industry extinguishing substances are those listed in Schedule 1 of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

Which extinguishing substances are affected by the legislation?

Only **some** extinguishing substances are affected by the legislation (scheduled), for example:

- Halon 1211 (BCF)
- FM-200
- NAF S-III
- Halon 1301 (BTM)
- FE-13
- NAF-P-III

Fire suppression systems and portable extinguishers using **scheduled** extinguishing substances are permitted by the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*, however, they must be serviced and maintained by fire protection technicians who hold an **extinguishing agent handling licence** (EAHL), as described in the legislation.

Before allowing any technician to work on a gaseous fire suppression system or portable fire extinguishers (containing scheduled extinguishing substances), check with the FPIB to verify that they hold an appropriate licence.

Where are gaseous fire suppression systems found?

Gaseous fire suppression systems using scheduled extinguishing substances are widely distributed across Australia. These systems are used across various sectors including building, marine, mining, aviation and defence.

A copy of the Regulations and additional information can also be found on the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board's website at www.fpiib.com.au



Fire Protection Industry
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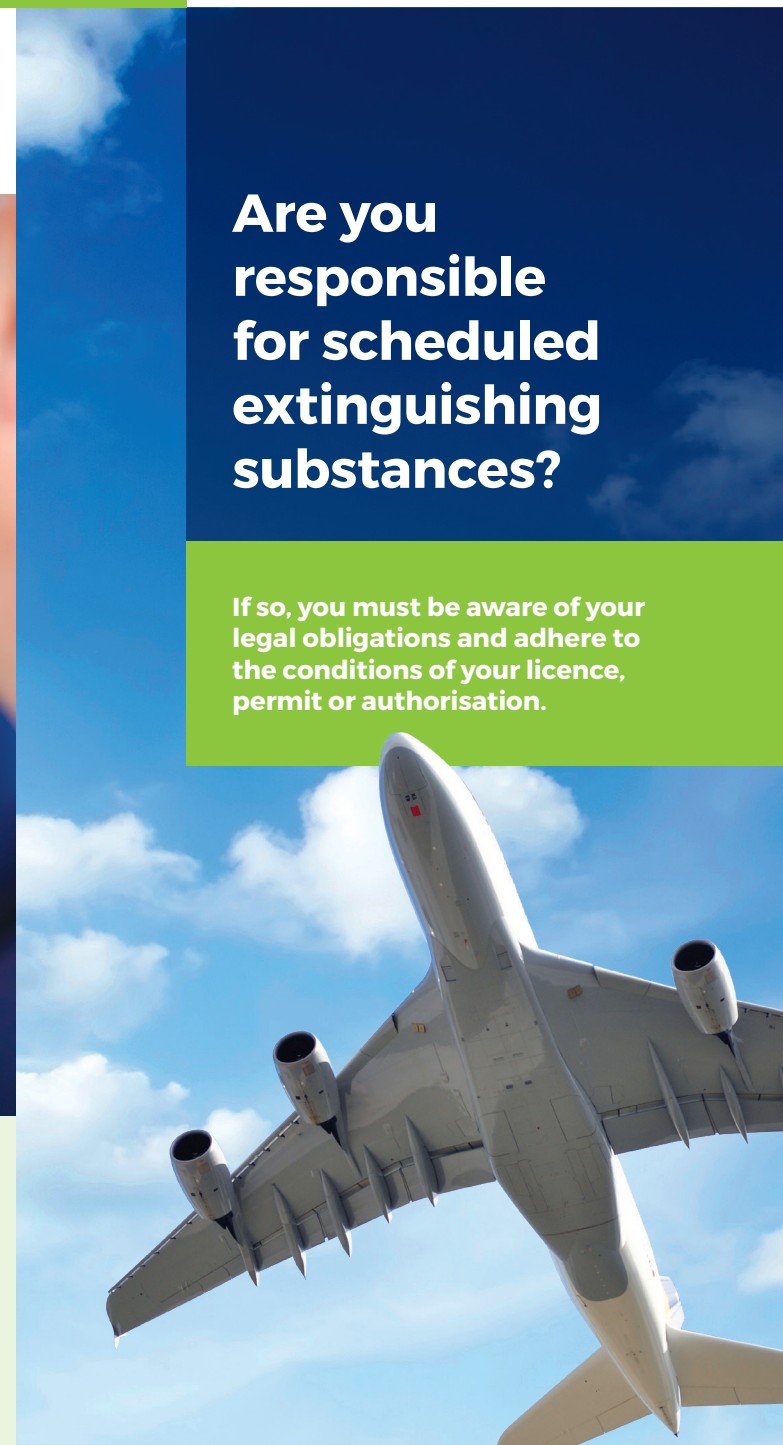
Contact Us

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Are you responsible for scheduled extinguishing substances?

If so, you must be aware of your legal obligations and adhere to the conditions of your licence, permit or authorisation.



Complying with the legislation

Why are licences required?

In Australia, controls for ozone depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGG) are achieved 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).

These controls are in place to:

- promote the responsible management of scheduled substances so as to minimise their impact on the atmosphere
- provide controls on the manufacture, import, export and use of SGGs under the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol
- encourage industry to replace ozone depleting substances
- ensure Australia meets its international obligations under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

Penalties for non-compliance

Non-compliance with the Act and Regulations may result in:

- a criminal prosecution
- a civil penalty order (where available)
- an infringement notice being issued.

In addition, non-compliance can result in the cancellation of a licence, permit or authorisation if the holder is no longer a fit and proper person, or has contravened a condition of the licence, permit or authorisation.

If you have any information about the acquisition, possession, disposal and handling of scheduled extinguishing substances in Australia that may not comply with the requirements of the Act or Regulations please contact the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board. Information that is reported will be held in the strictest confidence.

Call 03 8892 3131 or email ozone@fpib.com.au

Licences, authorisations and permits

Extinguishing agent handling licences (EAHL)

Any person installing, servicing, maintaining or decommissioning gaseous systems containing scheduled extinguishing substances must hold an EAHL. Six types of licence exist for fire protection technicians working on gaseous fire suppression systems and portable fire extinguishers that use **scheduled** (listed in the Regulations) extinguishing substances.

Depending upon the type of installation work, maintenance or service activity being undertaken, your fire protection technician may need to hold more than one type of licence.

Extinguishing agent trading authorisation (EATA)

Any person or business acquiring, possessing, distributing and/or disposing of scheduled extinguishing agents must hold an EATA. An EATA is required to undertake the following activities:

- buy/sell/store agent in bulk, or
- fill/recover agent.

To apply for an EATA, a person or business must have a current EAHL holder within their business. A system owner does not require an EATA unless spare cylinders or extinguishers are stored within the facility.

Halon special permit (HSP)

Any person or company possessing halon, which is for use in fire protection equipment, must hold a HSP.

Under the Regulations, it is an offence of strict liability to possess halon without the appropriate permit. **You must hold a HSP to possess ANY amount of halon.**



Discharge reporting and halon

What to do if a discharge incident takes place on your site

The FPIB recommends that any discharge of scheduled extinguishing substances from gaseous fire suppression systems, portable fire extinguishers or containers be reported.

Discharge incidents should be reported via the 'discharge notification form' which can be located at www.fpib.com.au.

Halon collection campaign

Halon was widely found in portable fire extinguishers used in cars, boats and domestic situations. These fire extinguishers containing halon were colour coded yellow.

Two types of halon were commonly used:

- **Halon 1211**, also known as **BCF** – usually found in aviation portable fire extinguishers; and
- **Halon 1301**, also known as **BTM** – used mainly in flooding systems, for example, to protect military vehicles.

The National Halon Bank provides a free call service for the general public and small business to advise on the disposal of halon. **Call 1800 658 084** to arrange for disposal.

Halon may also be disposed of by giving it to:

- the officer in charge of a fire station
- the holder of an EATA
- the operator of an approved extinguishing agent destruction facility.

HALON EXTINGUISHERS SHOULD NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN LANDFILL.

