



Have you recently completed study and plan on handling scheduled extinguishing substances? You need a licence!



By law, all individuals who handle a scheduled extinguishing substance that is, has been, or is used for fire protection must hold an extinguishing agent handling licence (EAHL) or a special circumstances exemption.

What does *handling a scheduled extinguishing substance* mean?

Handling a scheduled extinguishing substance means undertaking any task for which there is risk of emission of the scheduled substance.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Decanting the agent.
- Installing or maintaining fire protection equipment that contains a scheduled extinguishing agent (i.e. gaseous fire suppression systems and portable fire extinguishers).
- Decommissioning or disposing of fire protection equipment that contains a scheduled extinguishing agent.

What is an EAHL?

An Extinguishing Agent Handling Licence (EAHL) is a permit issued by the Fire Protection Industry (ODS & SGG) Board. If you are hiring recent graduate technicians who intend to handle scheduled extinguishing agents they must obtain an EAHL.

This includes any person who handles ozone depleting or synthetic greenhouse gas listed 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), where there is a risk of emission.

Non-compliance with the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* (The Regulations) may result in criminal prosecution, civil penalty order, or an infringement notice being issued.

The Ozone legislation is in place to:

- Promote the responsible management of scheduled substances 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.
- Provide controls on the handling, use, acquisition, storage, and disposal of scheduled substances.
- Encourage industry to replace ozone depleting substances.
- Ensure Australia meets its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Controls apply to any Ozone Depleting Substances or Synthetic Greenhouse Gas extinguishing substances scheduled under the Act, including, but not limited to:

FM-200®, Heptafluoropropane (HFC-227ea), Halon 1211, Halon 1301, Bromochlorodifluoromethane (BCF), Bromotrifluoromethane (BTM), NAF-SIII and NAF-PIII, and Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC Blend A and HCFC Blend C).

Less commonly used scheduled extinguishing substances

include: CFC-11, Tichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11), FE-13™, Trifluoromethane (HFC-23), FE-25™, Pentafluoroethane (HFC-125), FE-36™, Hexafluoropropane (HFC-236fa), FE-241™, Chlorotetrafluoroethane (HCFC-124), and Perfluorobutane (PFC-410).

