



# **Fire Protection Industry Board (ODS & SGG) Risk Management Strategy Plan**

Implementing a risk management strategy plan for storing and disposing of fire extinguishing agents

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## Foreword

In 1997 a merger between the Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia (FPIAA) and the Australian Fire Protection Association (AFPA) was finalised with the formation of Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA Australia). The merger was instrumental in forming what is now Australia's major fire safety, technical and educational organisation.

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.

With an extensive membership base, FPA Australia brings together the broad range of individuals, companies and organisations involved in fire protection as providers of products and services and/or as end-users/consumers of those goods. Membership of FPA Australia includes government; fire and emergency services; and businesses and organisations involved in insurance, research, engineering, architecture, building, health, education and training, transport, manufacturing, and mining, and in the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of fire protection systems.

FPA Australia was appointed by the Department of Environment and Energy in 2004 as the implementing agency for the Fire Protection Industry in regard to implementing the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 2005*.

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## Introduction

Reference A: *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*

Reference A: *AS/NZS 4360:2004*

The Fire Protection Industry Board (ODS & SGG) may, on application, grant an Extinguishing Agent Trading Authorisation and/ or a Halon Special Permit to a person, permitting the person to acquire, store or dispose of an extinguishing agent that is for use, or has been used in fire protection equipment.

It is further conditional that the Extinguishing Agent Trading Authorisation and/or Halon Special Permit is granted subject to the holder, among other requirements, puts into effect for the premises a risk management strategy (as per the details below) or an alternative plan that is signed and approved in writing by the Board. In order to streamline the process for applicants with minor holdings of agent, the following strategy plan for risk management of the agent has been designed in accordance with the standard for such plans.

Note: Applicants are welcome to submit a plan to a different template providing the essential elements outlined herein are covered at a minimum and the plan as submitted is in accordance with the provisions of AS/NZS 4360:2004. However, the risk management plan submitted must cover - at a minimum — how the following matters will be dealt with:

- Emissions from leaks in, or the failure of storage vessels;
- Damage by intruders,
- Transfer of extinguishing agents from a leaking storage container and
- Safe handling and transport of containers in accordance with the Australian Dangerous Goods Code.

An alternative risk management plan may be approved by the Board only if the Board considers that the plan, if put into effect, would allow the premises to operate in a way that is consistent with Australia's obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

## Policy Statement

\_\_\_\_\_ [name of company] is committed to fire protection without damaging the environment and in regard to the acquisition, storage or disposal of extinguishing agents we will maintain our equipment, train our staff and use current operational best practice to minimise or eliminate risk to the environment through emissions from leaks in, or the failure of, storage vessels; damage by intruders; and the transfer of extinguishing agents from a leaking storage vessel. However, should any of these events occur our risk management plan will be implemented immediately with the full commitment of the company.

## Objectives

1. Implement a planned maintenance schedule for the life of all equipment used in the safe storage and/ or disposal of extinguishing agents.
2. Training of all staff involved in the storage or disposal of extinguishing agents to the standard required to hold an extinguishing agent handling licence in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Protection Industry Board (ODS & SGG).
3. Document your operational practices for safe storage and/or disposal of extinguishing agents.
4. Regularly (twelve monthly) review our operational practices for safe storage and/or disposal of extinguishing agents.

## Identification, Assessment and Treatment of Risks

Risk identification involves determining the likelihood of risks or threats.

One of the most difficult things is ensuring that all major risks are identified. The Australian Standard for Risk Management AS/NZS 4360: 2004 Appendix D refers to generic sources of risk.

1. Describe the extent and types of specific risks your organisation may face in regard to the safe storage and disposal of extinguishing agents, including security risks.

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2. Outline the processes you will apply to minimise or eliminate the specific storage risks identified.

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3. Outline reporting procedures you have put in place to cover any accidental discharges.

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4. Outline the processes you will apply to minimize or eliminate the specific disposal risks identified.

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5. Outline the processes you will apply to minimize or eliminate the specific security risks identified

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# Senior Management Support & Statement

Your organisation is expected to achieve the active and ongoing support of your directors and senior executives to the risk management strategy plan.

We the undersigned agree with the content and intent of this risk management strategy plan for storing and disposing of extinguishing agents other than halon. We are committed to the risk management policy and achievement of the associated objectives.

I certify that all statements made on this form are correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Signature) (Date)