

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOL WILL BRING SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO FIRE FIGHTING FOAM

The 12-month countdown to a major product stewardship programme impacting fire fighting technology is set to begin and industry leading company Oil Technics is ready to help its customers prepare for this change.

By year end 2015, manufacturers of long chain fluorotelomers and other long chain fluorinated compounds who have committed to the USA Environmental Protection Agency 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Programme will stop the manufacture and use of these compounds. Consequently this will have a significant impact on fire fighting foam manufacturers and users.

Fire fighting foam concentrates are traditionally manufactured using fluorosurfactants with a carbon chain length between C6 and C12. However, research has shown that fluorosurfactants with a carbon chain greater than C6 have

the potential to break down into perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). To reduce the potential for human exposure to PFOA, fluorosurfactants with a carbon chain greater than C6 will no longer be made by manufacturers committed to this programme.

This EPA 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Programme presents a challenge to foam manufacturers, one which is being embraced by north-east specialists Oil Technics. The Aberdeenshire company has now completed its new range of C6 fighting foam concentrates a year ahead of implementation. This range has also been tested to international foam performance standard UL 162.

David Evans, managing director with Oil Technics, said: "All fire fighting foam manufacturers will have to reformulate and retest their foam concentrates to meet stringent international standards.

"Those responsible for fire fighting should be asking how the programme will impact them. The key questions are whether your current foam stock is 2010/15 compliant, whether it is UL 162 listed and whether it is compatible with new C6 fire fighting foam.

"This is one of the most significant challenges the industry has faced, and Oil Technics's forward planning has put us in a strong position to assist our customers with this change."

Oil Technics manufactures and supplies fire fighting foam for offshore platforms, onshore oil storage protection, airfield and vapour suppression applications. Their purpose built foam testing laboratory provides a range of services and specialises in rapid response – including heliport collection and same day testing for clients operating in the North Sea.

ASK YOURSELF THE BURNING QUESTION

Is your foam stock EPA 2010/15 compliant, UL 162 listed and compatible with the new C6 Fire Fighting Foam?

To comply with the USA EPA 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Programme, fluorosurfactant manufacturers worldwide have committed to withdraw from sale any fluorosurfactant with a carbon chain length greater than C6 by 2015. This change will have a significant impact on fire fighting foam manufacturers and users.

Oil Technics are now ready to offer their customers a range of UL listed C6 fire fighting foams, one year ahead of schedule.

If you would like more information or to talk to someone about these changes, please call +44 (0) 1561 361515 or visit www.firefightingfoam.com



Oil Technics (Fire Fighting Products) Ltd

Linton Business Park, Gourdon
Aberdeenshire, Scotland, UK, DD10 0NH

T: +44 (0)1561 361515 • E: info@oiltechnics.com

