

NFPA® 2001

Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems

2008 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Standard on

Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems

2008 Edition

This edition of NFPA 2001, *Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems and acted on by NFPA at its June Association Technical Meeting held June 3–7, 2007, in Boston, MA. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 26, 2007, with an effective date of August 15, 2007, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 2001 was approved as an American National Standard on August 15, 2007.

Origin and Development of NFPA 2001

The Technical Committee on Halon Alternative Protection Options was organized in 1991 and immediately started work to address the new total flooding clean agents that were being developed to replace Halon 1301. A need existed for an explanation of how to design, install, maintain, and operate systems using these new clean agents, and NFPA 2001 was established to address this need. The 1994 edition was the first edition of NFPA 2001. This standard was revised in 1996, 2000, and 2004.

In January 2005, the technical committees responsible for NFPA 12, NFPA 12A, and NFPA 2001 were combined into the Technical Committee on Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems to better address and resolve issues among those documents. This action is intended to facilitate correlation and consistency as requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The 2008 edition has added requirements for local application systems.



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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the installation, maintenance, and use of carbon dioxide systems for fire protection. This Committee shall also have primary responsibility for documents on fixed fire extinguishing systems utilizing bromotrifluoromethane and other similar halogenated extinguishing agents, covering the installation, maintenance, and use of systems.

This Committee shall also have primary responsibility for documents on alternative protection options to Halon 1301 and 1211 fire extinguishing systems. It shall not deal with design, installation, operation, testing, and maintenance of systems employing dry chemical, wet chemical, foam, aerosols, or water as the primary extinguishing media.

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule beside the paragraph, table, or figure in which the change occurred. These rules are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition. Where one or more complete paragraphs have been deleted, the deletion is indicated by a bullet (•) between the paragraphs that remain.

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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex E.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. This standard contains minimum requirements for total flooding and local application clean agent fire extinguishing systems. It does not cover fire extinguishing systems that use carbon dioxide or water as the primary extinguishing media, which are addressed by other NFPA documents.

1.2 Purpose.

1.2.1 The agents in this standard were introduced in response to international restrictions on the production of certain halon fire extinguishing agents under the Montreal Protocol signed September 16, 1987, as amended. This standard is prepared for the use and guidance of those charged with purchasing, designing, installing, testing, inspecting, approving, listing, operating, and maintaining engineered or pre-engineered clean agent extinguishing systems, so that such equipment will function as intended throughout its life. Nothing in this standard is intended to restrict new technologies or alternate arrangements provided the level of safety prescribed by this standard is not lowered.

1.2.2 No standard can be promulgated that will provide all the necessary criteria for the implementation of a total flooding clean agent fire extinguishing system. Technology in this area is

under constant development, and this will be reflected in revisions to this standard. The user of this standard must recognize the complexity of clean agent fire extinguishing systems. Therefore, the designer is cautioned that the standard is not a design handbook. The standard does not do away with the need for the engineer or for competent engineering judgment. It is intended that a designer capable of applying a more complete and rigorous analysis to special or unusual problems shall have latitude in the development of such designs. In such cases, the designer is responsible for demonstrating the validity of the approach.

1.3 Units. Metric units of measurement in this standard are in accordance with the modernized metric system known as the International System of Units (SI). Two units (liter and bar), outside of but recognized by SI, are commonly used in international fire protection. These units are listed in Table 1.3 with conversion factors. If a value for measurement as given in this standard is followed by an equivalent value in other units, the first stated is to be regarded as the requirement. A given equivalent value could be approximate.

Table 1.3 Metric Conversion Factors

Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Conversion Factor
millimeter	mm	1 in. = 25.4 mm
liter	L	1 gal = 3.785 L
cubic meter	m ³	1 ft ³ = 0.028317 m ³
kilogram	kg	1 lb = 0.4536 kg
kilograms per cubic meter	kg/m ³	1 lb/ft ³ = 16.0185 kg/m ³
pascal	Pa	1 psi = 6895 Pa
bar	bar	1 psi = 0.0689 bar
bar	bar	1 bar = 10 ⁵ Pa

Notes:

- (1) For additional conversions and information, see ASTM SI 10.
- (2) In Canada refer to CAN/CSA-Z234.1.

1.4 General Information.**1.4.1* Applicability of Agents.**

1.4.1.1 The fire extinguishing agents addressed in this standard shall be electrically nonconducting and leave no residue upon evaporation.

1.4.1.2* Agents that meet the criteria of 1.4.1.1 shall be shown in Table 1.4.1.2.

1.4.1.3 The design, installation, service, and maintenance of clean agent systems shall be performed by those skilled in clean agent fire extinguishing system technology.

1.4.2* Use and Limitations.

1.4.2.1 All pre-engineered systems shall be installed to protect hazards within the limitations that have been established by the listing. Pre-engineered systems shall be listed to one of the following types:

- (1) Those consisting of system components designed to be installed according to pre-tested limitations by a testing laboratory. These pre-engineered systems shall be permitted to incorporate special nozzles, flow rates, methods of application, nozzle placement, and pressurization levels that could differ from those detailed elsewhere in this standard. All other requirements of the standard shall apply.

Table 1.4.1.2 Agents Addressed in NFPA 2001

FK-5-1-12	Dodecafluoro-2-methylpentan-3-one	$\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)_2$
HCFC Blend A	Dichlorotrifluoroethane	CHCl_2CF_3
	HCFC-123 (4.75%)	
	Chlorodifluoromethane	CHClF_2
	HCFC-22 (82%)	
	Chlorotetrafluoroethane	$\text{CHClF}_2\text{CF}_3$
	HCFC-124 (9.5%)	
	Isopropenyl-1-methylcyclohexene (3.75%)	
HCFC-124	Chlorotetrafluoroethane	$\text{CHClF}_2\text{CF}_3$
HFC-125	Pentafluoroethane	CHF_2CF_3
HFC-227ea	Heptafluoropropane	$\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$
HFC-23	Trifluoromethane	CHF_3
HFC-236fa	Hexafluoropropane	$\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$
FIC-13I1	Trifluoroiodide	CF_3I
IG-01	Argon	Ar
IG-100	Nitrogen	N_2
IG-541	Nitrogen (52%)	N_2
	Argon (40%)	Ar
	Carbon dioxide (8%)	CO_2
IG-55	Nitrogen (50%)	N_2
	Argon (50%)	Ar
HFC Blend B	Tetrafluoroethane (86%)	$\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2, \text{FCF}_3, \text{CHF}_2$
	Pentafluoroethane (9%)	CF_3, CO_2
	Carbon dioxide (5%)	

Notes:

- (1) Other agents could become available at later dates. They could be added via the NFPA process in future editions of or amendments to the standard.
- (2) Composition of inert gas agents are given in percent by volume. Composition of HCFC Blend A is given in percent by weight.
- (3) The full analogous ASHRAE nomenclature for FK-5-1-12 is FK-5-1-12mm2.

- (2) Automatic extinguishing units incorporating special nozzles, flow rates, methods of application, nozzle placement, actuation techniques, piping materials, discharge times, mounting techniques, and pressurization levels that could differ from those detailed elsewhere in this standard.

1.4.2.2* Clean agents shall not be used on fires involving the following materials unless they have been tested to the satisfaction of the authority having jurisdiction:

- (1) Certain chemicals or mixtures of chemicals, such as cellulose nitrate and gunpowder, which are capable of rapid oxidation in the absence of air
- (2) Reactive metals such as lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, titanium, zirconium, uranium, and plutonium
- (3) Metal hydrides
- (4) Chemicals capable of undergoing autothermal decomposition, such as certain organic peroxides and hydrazine

1.4.2.3 Where a total flooding system is used, a fixed enclosure shall be provided about the hazard that allows a specified agent concentration to be achieved and maintained for a specified period of time.

1.4.2.4* The effects of agent decomposition on fire protection effectiveness and equipment shall be considered where using clean agents in hazards with high ambient temperatures (e.g., furnaces and ovens).

1.5 Safety.**1.5.1* Hazards to Personnel.**

1.5.1.1* Any agent that is to be recognized by this standard or proposed for inclusion in this standard shall first be evaluated in a manner equivalent to the process used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SNAP Program.

1.5.1.2* Halocarbon Agents.

1.5.1.2.1* Unnecessary exposure to halocarbon clean agents — including exposure at and below the no observable adverse effects level (NOAEL) — and halocarbon decomposition products shall be avoided. Means shall be provided to limit exposure to no longer than 5 minutes. Unprotected personnel shall not enter a protected space during or after agent discharge. The following additional provisions shall apply:

- (1) Halocarbon systems for spaces that are normally occupied and designed to concentrations up to the NOAEL [see Table 1.5.1.2.1(a)] shall be permitted. The maximum exposure in any case shall not exceed 5 minutes.
- (2) Halocarbon systems for spaces that are normally occupied and designed to concentrations above the NOAEL [see Table 1.5.1.2.1(a)] shall be permitted, given that means be provided to limit exposure to the design concentrations shown in Table 1.5.1.2.1(b) through Table 1.5.1.2.1(e) that correspond to an allowable human exposure time of 5 minutes. Higher design concentrations associated with human exposure times less than 5 minutes as shown in Table 1.5.1.2.1(b) through Table 1.5.1.2.1(e) shall not be permitted in normally occupied spaces. An exposure and egress analysis shall be performed and approved.
- (3) In spaces that are not normally occupied and protected by a halocarbon system designed to concentrations above the lowest observable adverse effects level (LOAEL) [see Table 1.5.1.2.1(a)], and where personnel could possibly be exposed, means shall be provided to limit exposure times using Table 1.5.1.2.1(b) through Table 1.5.1.2.1(e).
- (4) In spaces that are not normally occupied and in the absence of the information needed to fulfill the conditions listed in 1.5.1.2.1(3), the following provisions shall apply:
 - (a) Where egress takes longer than 30 seconds but less than 1 minute, the halocarbon agent shall not be used in a concentration exceeding its LOAEL.
 - (b) Concentrations exceeding the LOAEL are permitted provided that any personnel in the area can escape within 30 seconds.
 - (c) A pre-discharge alarm and time delay shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of 4.3.5.6 of this standard.

1.5.1.3* Inert Gas Clean Agents. Unnecessary exposure to inert gas agent systems resulting in low oxygen atmospheres shall be avoided. The maximum exposure time in any case shall not exceed 5 minutes. See Table 5.5.3.3 for atmospheric correction factors that shall be considered when determining the design concentrations. One objective of pre-discharge alarms and time delays is to prevent human exposure to agents. A pre-discharge alarm and time delay shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of 4.3.5.6 of this standard. Unprotected personnel shall not enter the area during or after agent discharge. The following additional provisions shall apply:



- (1) Inert gas systems designed to concentrations below 43 percent (corresponding to an oxygen concentration of 12 percent, sea level equivalent of oxygen) shall be permitted, where means are provided to limit exposure to no longer than 5 minutes.
- (2) Inert gas systems designed to concentrations between 43 and 52 percent (corresponding to between 12 and 10 percent oxygen, sea level equivalent of oxygen) shall be permitted, where means are provided to limit exposure to no longer than 3 minutes.
- (3) Inert gas systems designed to concentrations between 52 and 62 percent (corresponding to between 10 and 8 percent oxygen, sea level equivalent of oxygen) shall be permitted, given the following:
 - (a) The space is normally unoccupied.
 - (b) Where personnel could possibly be exposed, means are provided to limit the exposure to less than 30 seconds.
- (4) Inert gas systems designed to concentrations above 62 percent (corresponding to 8 percent oxygen or below, sea level equivalent of oxygen) shall only be used in unoccupied areas where personnel are not exposed to such oxygen depletion.

Table 1.5.1.2.1(a) Information for Halocarbon Clean Agents

Agent	NOAEL (%)	LOAEL (%)
FK-5-1-12	10.0	>10.0
HCFC Blend A	10.0	>10.0
HCFC-124	1.0	2.5
HFC-125	7.5	10.0
HFC-227ea	9.0	10.5
HFC-23	30	>30
HFC-236fa	10	15
HFC Blend B*	5.0*	7.5*

*These values are for the largest component of the blend (HFC 134A).

Table 1.5.1.2.1(b) Time for Safe Human Exposure at Stated Concentrations for HFC-125

HFC-125 Concentration		Maximum Permitted Human Exposure Time (min)
% v/v	ppm	
7.5	75,000	5.00
8.0	80,000	5.00
8.5	85,000	5.00
9.0	90,000	5.00
9.5	95,000	5.00
10.0	100,000	5.00
10.5	105,000	5.00
11.0	110,000	5.00
11.5	115,000	5.00
12.0	120,000	1.67
12.5	125,000	0.59
13.0	130,000	0.54
13.5	135,000	0.49

Notes:

- (1) Data derived from the EPA-approved and peer-reviewed physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model or its equivalent.
- (2) Based on LOAEL of 10.0 percent in dogs.

Table 1.5.1.2.1(c) Time for Safe Human Exposure at Stated Concentrations for HFC-227ea

HFC-227ea Concentration		Maximum Permitted Human Exposure Time (min)
% v/v	ppm	
9.0	90,000	5.00
9.5	95,000	5.00
10.0	100,000	5.00
10.5	105,000	5.00
11.0	110,000	1.13
11.5	115,000	0.60
12.0	120,000	0.49

Notes:

- (1) Data derived from the EPA-approved and peer-reviewed PBPK model or its equivalent.
- (2) Based on LOAEL of 10.5 percent in dogs.

Table 1.5.1.2.1(d) Time for Safe Human Exposure at Stated Concentrations for HFC-236fa

HFC-236fa Concentration		Maximum Permitted Human Exposure Time (min)
% v/v	ppm	
10.0	100,000	5.00
10.5	105,000	5.00
11.0	110,000	5.00
11.5	115,000	5.00
12.0	120,000	5.00
12.5	125,000	5.00
13.0	130,000	1.65
13.5	135,000	0.92
14.0	140,000	0.79
14.5	145,000	0.64
15.0	150,000	0.49

Notes:

- (1) Data derived from the EPA-approved and peer-reviewed PBPK model or its equivalent.
- (2) Based on LOAEL of 15.0 percent in dogs.

Table 1.5.1.2.1(e) Time for Safe Human Exposure at Stated Concentrations for FIC-131I

FIC-131I Concentration		Maximum Permitted Human Exposure Time (min)
% v/v	ppm	
0.20	2000	5.00
0.25	2500	5.00
0.30	3000	5.00
0.35	3500	4.30
0.40	4000	0.85
0.45	4500	0.49
0.50	5000	0.35

Notes:

- (1) Data derived from the EPA-approved and peer-reviewed PBPK model or its equivalent.
- (2) Based on LOAEL of 0.4 percent in dogs.

1.5.1.4 Safety Requirements.

1.5.1.4.1* Suitable safeguards shall be provided to ensure prompt evacuation of and prevent entry into hazardous atmospheres and also to provide means for prompt rescue of any trapped personnel. Safety items such as personnel training, warning signs, discharge alarms, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), evacuation plans, and fire drills shall be considered.

1.5.1.4.2* Consideration shall be given to the possibility of a clean agent migrating to adjacent areas outside of the protected space.

1.5.1.4.3 For systems protecting occupiable enclosures or spaces where the clean agent design concentration exceeds that approved for use in normally occupied spaces (see Section 1.5), systems shall include the following:

- (1) Supervised system lockout valves
- (2) Pneumatic pre-discharge alarms
- (3) Pneumatic time delays
- (4) Warning signs

1.5.1.4.4* Pneumatic pre-discharge alarms shall be operated by an inert gas. For an inert gas clean agent fire extinguishing system, the quantity of inert gas discharged to operate a pneumatic pre-discharge alarm discharging into the protected space shall be considered, together with the quantity of agent discharged, when making a determination of post-discharge oxygen concentration with respect to compliance with the requirements of 1.5.1.3.

1.5.1.5 All persons who inspect, test, maintain, or operate fire extinguishing systems shall be trained in all aspects of safety related to the systems.

1.5.1.5.1 Before system cylinders are handled or moved, the following steps shall be taken:

- (1) Cylinder outlets shall be fitted with anti-recoil devices, cylinder caps, or both whenever the cylinder outlet is not connected to the system pipe inlet.
- (2) Actuators shall be disabled or removed before cylinders are removed from retaining bracketing.

1.5.1.5.2 Safe handling procedures shall be followed when transporting system cylinders.

1.5.1.5.2.1 Equipment designed for transporting cylinders shall be used. When dollies or carts are used, cylinders shall be secured.

1.5.1.5.2.2 System manufacturer's service procedures shall be followed for specific details on system operation, maintenance, and safety considerations.

1.5.2 Electrical Clearances.

1.5.2.1 All system components shall be located to maintain no less than minimum clearances from energized electrical parts. The following references shall be considered as the minimum electrical clearance requirements for the installation of clean agent systems:

- (1) ANSI C2
- (2) NFPA 70
- (3) 29 CFR 1910, Subpart S

1.5.2.2 Where the design basic insulation level (BIL) is not available, and where nominal voltage is used for the design criteria, the highest minimum clearance listed for this group shall be used.

1.5.2.3 The selected clearance to ground shall satisfy the greater of the switching surge or BIL duty, rather than being based on nominal voltage.

1.5.2.4 The clearance between uninsulated, energized parts of the electrical system equipment and any portion of the clean agent system shall not be less than the minimum clearance provided elsewhere for electrical system insulation on any individual component.

1.5.2.5 Where BIL is not available and where nominal voltage is used for the design criteria, the highest minimum clearance listed for this group shall be used.

1.6* Environmental Factors. When an agent is being selected to protect a hazard area, the effects of the agent on the environment shall be considered. Selection of the appropriate fire suppression agent shall include consideration of the following items:

- (1) Potential environmental effect of a fire in the protected area
- (2) Potential environmental effect of the various agents that could be used

1.7 Retrofitability. Retrofitting of any clean agent into an existing fire extinguishing system shall result in a system that is listed or approved.

1.8 Compatibility with Other Agents.

1.8.1* Mixing of agents in the same container shall be permitted only if the system is listed.

1.8.2 Systems employing the simultaneous discharge of different agents to protect the same enclosed space shall not be permitted.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*®, 2008 edition.

NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, 2007 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ANSI Publications. American National Standards Institute, Inc., 25 West 43rd Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

ANSI B1.20.1, *Standard for Pipe Threads, General Purpose*, 1992.

ANSI C2, *National Electrical Safety Code*, 1997.

ANSI Z535, *Standard for Environmental and Facility Safety Signs*, 2002.

2.3.2 ASME Publications. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990.

ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*, 1998.

ASME B31.1, *Power Piping*, 1998, including B31.1a 1999 Addenda and B31.1b 2000 Addenda.



2.3.3 ASTM Publications. ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

ASTM A 120, *Specification for Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe for High Temperature Service*, 1988.

ASTM SI 10, *Standard Practice for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System*, 1997.

2.3.4 CGA Publications. Compressed Gas Association, 4221 Walney Road, 5th Floor, Chantilly, VA 20151-2923.

CGA C-6, *Standard for Visual Inspection of Steel Compressed Gas Cylinders*, 1993.

2.3.5 CSA Publications. Canadian Standards Association, 5060 Spectrum Way, Suite 100, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5N6, Canada.

CAN/CSA-Z234.1, *Canadian Metric Practice Guide*, 1989.

2.3.6 IMO Publications. International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London, England, SE1 1TSR.

IMO MSC/Circular 848.

2.3.7 ISO Publications. International Organization for Standardization, 1 ch. de la Voie-Creuse, Case postale 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

ISO/IEC Guide 7, *Requirements for Standards Suitable for Use for Conformity Assessment*, 1994.

2.3.8 TC Publications. Transport Canada, Tower C, Place de Ville, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N5.

TP 127, *Ship Safety Electrical Standards*, 2002.

2.3.9 UL Publications. Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-2096.

UL 2127, *Standard for Inert Gas Clean Agent Extinguishing System Units*, 2001.

UL 2166, *Standard for Halocarbon Clean Agent Extinguishing System Units*, 2001.

2.3.10 ULC Publications. Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, 7 Underwriter's Road, Toronto, Ontario M1R 3B4, Canada.

ULC S524-M91, *Standard for the Installation of Fire Alarm Systems*, 1991.

ULC S529-M87, *Smoke Detectors for Fire Alarm Systems*, 1987.

2.3.11 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

OSHA, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910, Subpart S.

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 72.

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter J, "Electrical Engineering."

Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 170–190, "Transportation."

2.3.12 Other Publications.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 12, *Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems*, 2008 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.4 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.5 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Adjusted Minimum Design Quantity (AMDQ). The minimum design quantity of agent that has been adjusted in consideration of design factors.

3.3.2 Agent Concentration. The portion of agent in an agent–air mixture expressed in volume percent.

3.3.3 Class A Fire. A fire in ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics.

3.3.4 Class B Fire. A fire in flammable liquids, combustible liquids, petroleum greases, tars, oils, oil-based paints, solvents, lacquers, alcohols, and flammable gases.

3.3.5 Class C Fire. A fire that involves energized electrical equipment.

3.3.6 Clean Agent. Electrically nonconducting, volatile, or gaseous fire extinguishant that does not leave a residue upon evaporation. The word *agent* as used in this document means clean agent unless otherwise indicated.

3.3.7 Clearance. The air distance between extinguishing system equipment, including piping and nozzles, and unenclosed or uninsulated live electrical components not at ground potential.

3.3.8 Control Room and Electronic Equipment Space. A space containing electronic or electrical equipment, such as that found in control rooms or electronic equipment rooms, where only Class A surface fires or Class C electrical hazards are present.

3.3.9 Design Factor (DF). A fraction of the agent minimum design quantity (MDQ) added thereto deemed appropriate

due to a specific feature of the protection application or design of the suppression system.

3.3.10 Engineered System. A system requiring individual calculation and design to determine the flow rates, nozzle pressures, pipe size, area or volume protected by each nozzle, quantity of agent, and the number and types of nozzles and their placement in a specific system.

3.3.11 Fill Density. Mass of agent per unit of container volume (the customary units are lb/ft³ or kg/m³).

3.3.12 Final Design Quantity (FDQ). The quantity of agent determined from the agent minimum design quantity as adjusted to account for design factors and pressure adjustment.

3.3.13* Halocarbon Agent. An agent that contains as primary components one or more organic compounds containing one or more of the elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine.

3.3.14 Inert Gas Agent. An agent that contains as primary components one or more of the gases helium, neon, argon, or nitrogen. Inert gas agents that are blends of gases can also contain carbon dioxide as a secondary component.

3.3.15 Local Application System. A system consisting of a supply of extinguishing agent arranged to discharge directly on the burning material. [12, 2008]

3.3.16 Lockout Valve. A manually operated valve in the discharge pipe between the nozzles and the agent supply that can be locked in the closed position to prevent flow of agent to the protected area.

3.3.17 Lowest Observable Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL). The lowest concentration at which an adverse physiological or toxicological effect has been observed.

3.3.18 Machinery Space. A space containing the main and auxiliary propulsion machinery.

3.3.19 Marine Systems. Systems installed on ships, barges, offshore platforms, motorboats, and pleasure craft.

3.3.20 Minimum Design Quantity (MDQ). The quantity of agent required to achieve the minimum design concentration as calculated using the method in 5.5.1 or 5.5.2, as appropriate.

3.3.21 No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL). The highest concentration at which no adverse toxicological or physiological effect has been observed.

3.3.22* Normally Occupied Enclosure or Space. An enclosure or space where one or more persons are present under normal conditions.

3.3.23 Occupiable Enclosure or Space. An enclosure or space that has dimensions and physical characteristics such that it could be entered by a person.

3.3.24 Pre-Engineered System. A system having predetermined flow rates, nozzle pressures, and quantities of agent. These systems have the specific pipe size, maximum and minimum pipe lengths, flexible hose specifications, number of fittings, and number and types of nozzles prescribed by a testing laboratory. The hazards protected by these systems are specifically limited as to type and size by a testing laboratory based upon actual fire tests. Limitations on hazards that can be protected by these systems are contained in the manufacturer's installation manual, which is referenced as part of the listing.

3.3.25 Pump Room. A space that contains mechanical equipment for handling, pumping, or transferring flammable or combustible liquids as a fuel.

3.3.26 Safety Factor (SF). A multiplier of the agent flame extinguishing or inerting concentration to determine the agent minimum design concentration.

3.3.27 Sea Level Equivalent of Agent. The agent concentration (volume percent) at sea level for which the partial pressure of agent matches the ambient partial pressure of agent at a given altitude.

3.3.28 Sea Level Equivalent of Oxygen. The oxygen concentration (volume percent) at sea level for which the partial pressure of oxygen matches the ambient partial pressure of oxygen at a given altitude.

3.3.29 Superpressurization. The addition of gas to a fire extinguishing agent container to achieve a specified pressure therein.

3.3.30 Total Flooding. The act and manner of discharging an agent for the purpose of achieving a specified minimum agent concentration throughout a hazard volume.

3.3.31 Total Flooding System. A system consisting of an agent supply and distribution network designed to achieve a total flooding condition in a hazard volume.

Chapter 4 Components

4.1 Agent Supply.

4.1.1 Quantity.

4.1.1.1 Primary Agent Supply. The amount of agent in the system primary agent supply shall be at least sufficient for the largest single hazard to be protected or group of hazards to be protected simultaneously.

4.1.1.2* Reserve Agent Supply. Where required, a reserve agent supply shall consist of as many multiples of the primary agent supply as the authority having jurisdiction considers necessary.

4.1.1.3 Uninterrupted Protection. Where uninterrupted protection is required, both the primary and the reserve agent supplies shall be permanently connected to the distribution piping and arranged for easy changeover.

4.1.2* Quality. Agent properties shall meet the standards of quality given in Table 4.1.2(a) through Table 4.1.2(d). Each batch of agent manufactured shall be tested and certified to the specifications given in the tables. Agent blends shall remain homogeneous in storage and use within the listed temperature range and conditions of service that they will encounter.

Table 4.1.2(a) Halogenated Agent Quality Requirements

Property	Specification
Agent purity, mole %, minimum	99.0
Acidity, ppm (by weight HCl equivalent), maximum	3.0
Water content, weight %, maximum	0.001
Nonvolatile residues, g/100 ml maximum	0.05



Table 4.1.2(b) Inert Gas Agent Quality Requirements

Composition	Gas	IG-01	IG-100	IG-541	IG-55
Composition, % by volume	N ₂		Minimum 99.9%	52% ± 4%	50% ± 5%
	Ar	Minimum 99.9%		40% ± 4%	50% ± 5%
	CO ₂			8% ± 1% – 0.0%	
Water content, % by weight		Maximum 0.005%	Maximum 0.005%	Maximum 0.005%	Maximum 0.005%

Table 4.1.2(c) HCFC Blend A Quality Requirements

Component	Amount (weight %)
HCFC-22	82% ± 0.8%
HCFC-124	9.50% ± 0.9%
HCFC-123	4.75% ± 0.5%
Isopropenyl-1- methylcyclohexene	3.75% ± 0.5%

Table 4.1.2(d) HFC Blend B Quality Requirements

Component	Amount (weight %)
HFC-134a	86% ± 5%
HFC-125	9% ± 3%
CO ₂	5% ± 2%

4.1.3 Storage Container Arrangement.

4.1.3.1 Storage containers and accessories shall be located and arranged so that inspection, testing, recharging, and other maintenance activities are facilitated and interruption of protection is held to a minimum.

4.1.3.2* Storage containers shall be located as close as possible to or within the hazard or hazards they protect.

4.1.3.3 Agent storage containers shall not be located where they can be rendered inoperable or unreliable due to mechanical damage or exposure to chemicals or harsh weather conditions or by any other foreseeable cause. Where container exposure to such conditions is unavoidable, then suitable enclosures or protective measures shall be employed.

4.1.3.4 Storage containers shall be securely installed and secured according to the manufacturer's listed installation manual and in a manner that provides for convenient individual servicing or content weighing.

4.1.3.5 Where storage containers are connected to a manifold, automatic means, such as a check valve, shall be provided to prevent agent loss and to ensure personnel safety if the system is operated when any containers are removed for maintenance.

4.1.4 Agent Storage Containers.

4.1.4.1* Storage Containers. Agent shall be stored in containers designed to hold that specific agent at ambient temperatures. Containers shall be charged to a fill density or superpressurization level within the range specified in the manufacturer's listed manual.

4.1.4.2* Each agent container shall have a permanent nameplate or other permanent marking that indicates the following:

- (1) For halocarbon agent containers, the agent, tare and gross weights, and superpressurization level (where applicable) of the container
- (2) For inert gas agent containers, the agent, pressurization level of the container, and nominal agent volume

4.1.4.3 The containers used in these systems shall be designed to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation or the Canadian Transport Commission, if used as shipping containers. If not shipping containers, they shall be designed, fabricated, inspected, certified, and stamped in accordance with Section VIII of the ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*; independent inspection and certification is recommended. The design pressure shall be suitable for the maximum pressure developed at 130°F (55°C) or at the maximum controlled temperature limit.

4.1.4.4 A reliable means of indication shall be provided to determine the pressure in refillable superpressurized containers.

4.1.4.5 The containers connected to a manifold shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) For halocarbon clean agents in a multiple container system, all containers supplying the same manifold outlet for distribution of the same agent shall be interchangeable and of one select size and charge.
- (2)*Inert gas agents shall be permitted to utilize multiple storage container sizes connected to a common manifold.

4.1.4.6 Storage temperatures shall not exceed or be less than the manufacturer's listed limits. External heating or cooling shall be used to keep the temperature of the storage container within desired ranges.

4.2 Distribution.**4.2.1* Pipe.**

4.2.1.1* Pipe shall be noncombustible material having physical and chemical characteristics such that its integrity under stress can be predicted with reliability. Special corrosion-resistant materials or coatings shall be required in severely corrosive atmospheres. The thickness of the piping shall be calculated in accordance with the ASME B31.1, 1998 edition, including B31.1a 1999 Addenda and B31.1b 2000 Addenda. The internal pressure used for this calculation shall not be less than the greater of either of the following values:

- (1) The normal charging pressure in the agent container at 70°F (21°C)
- (2) Eighty percent of the maximum pressure in the agent container at a maximum storage temperature of not less than 130°F (55°C), using the equipment manufacturer's maximum allowable fill density, if applicable

4.2.1.1.1 In no case shall the value used for the minimum pipe design pressure be less than that specified in Table 4.2.1.1.1(a) and Table 4.2.1.1.1(b) for the conditions shown. For inert gas clean agents, Table 4.2.1.1.1(a) shall be used. The pressure-

reducing device shall be readily identifiable. For halocarbon clean agents, Table 4.2.1.1.1(b) shall be used. If different fill densities, pressurization levels, or higher storage temperatures than those shown in Table 4.2.1.1.1(a) or Table 4.2.1.1.1(b) are approved for a given system, the minimum design pressure for the piping shall be adjusted to the maximum pressure in the agent container at maximum temperature, using the basic design criteria specified in 4.2.1.1(1) and 4.2.1.1(2).

4.2.1.2 Other than as allowed in 4.2.1.4, cast-iron pipe, steel pipe conforming to ASTM A 120, or nonmetallic pipe shall not be used.

4.2.1.3 Stenciled pipe identification shall not be painted over, concealed, or removed prior to approval by the authority having jurisdiction.

4.2.1.4 Where used, flexible pipe, flexible nonmetallic pipe, tubing, or hoses, including connections, shall be of approved materials and pressure ratings.

4.2.1.5 Each pipe section shall be cleaned internally after preparation and before assembly by means of swabbing, utilizing a suitable nonflammable cleaner. The pipe network shall be free of particulate matter and oil residue before installation of nozzles or discharge devices.

4.2.1.6* In sections where valve arrangements introduce sections of closed piping, such sections shall be equipped with pressure relief devices, or the valves shall be designed to prevent entrapment of liquid. In systems using pressure-operated container valves, means shall be provided to vent any container leakage that could build up pressure in the pilot system and cause unwanted opening of the container valve. The means of pressure venting shall be arranged so as not to prevent reliable operation of the container valve.

4.2.1.7 All pressure relief devices shall be designed and located so that the discharge from the device will not injure personnel or pose a hazard.

4.2.2 Pipe Joints. Pipe joints other than threaded, welded, brazed, flared, compression, or flanged type shall be listed or approved.

4.2.3 Fittings.

4.2.3.1* Fittings shall have a minimum rated working pressure equal to or greater than the minimum design working pressure specified in 4.2.1.1, for the clean agent being used, or as otherwise listed or approved. For systems that employ the use of a pressure-reducing device in the distribution piping, the fittings downstream of the device shall have a minimum rated working pressure equal to or greater than the maximum anticipated pressure in the downstream piping.

4.2.3.2 Cast-iron fittings shall not be used. Class 150 lb fittings shall not be used unless it can be demonstrated that they comply with the appropriate American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) stress calculations.

4.2.3.3 All threads used in joints and fittings shall conform to ANSI B1.20.1 or ISO/IEC Guide 7. Joint compound, tape, or thread lubricant shall be applied only to the male threads of the joint.

4.2.3.4 Welding and brazing alloys shall have a melting point above 1000°F (538°C).

4.2.3.5 Welding shall be performed in accordance with Section IX, "Qualification Standard for Welding and Brazing Procedures, Welders, Brazers and Welding and Brazing Operators," of the ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*.

4.2.3.6 Where copper, stainless steel, or other suitable tubing is jointed with compression-type fittings, the manufacturer's pressure and temperature ratings of the fitting shall not be exceeded.

4.2.4 Valves.

4.2.4.1 All valves shall be listed or approved for the intended use.

4.2.4.2* All gaskets, o-rings, sealants, and other valve components shall be constructed of materials that are compatible with the agent. Valves shall be protected against mechanical, chemical, or other damage.

4.2.4.3 Special corrosion-resistant materials or coatings shall be used in severely corrosive atmospheres.

Table 4.2.1.1.1(a) Minimum Design Working Pressure for Inert Gas Clean Agent System Piping

Agent	Agent Container Pressure at 70°F (21°C)		Agent Container Pressure at 130°F (55°C)		Minimum Design Pressure at 70°F (21°C) of Piping Upstream of Pressure Reducer	
	psig	kPa	psig	kPa	psig	kPa
IG-01	2370	16,341	2650	18,271	2370	16,341
	2964	20,436	3304	22,781	2964	20,436
IG-541	2175	14,997	2575	17,755	2175	14,997
	2900	19,996	3433	23,671	2900	19,996
IG-55	2222	15,320	2475	17,065	2222	15,320
	2962	20,423	3300	22,753	2962	20,423
IG-100	4443	30,634	4950	34,130	4443	30,634
	2404	16,575	2799	19,299	2404	16,575
	3236	22,312	3773	26,015	3236	22,312
	4061	28,000	4754	32,778	4061	28,000



Table 4.2.1.1.1(b) Minimum Design Working Pressure for Halocarbon Clean Agent System Piping

Agent	Agent Container Maximum Fill Density (lb/ft ³)	Agent Container Charging Pressure at 70°F (21°C) (psi)	Agent Container Pressure at 130°F (55°C) (psi)	Minimum Piping Design Pressure at 70°F (21°C) (psi)
HFC-227ea	79	44*	135	416
	75	150	249	200
	72	360	520	416
	72	600	1025	820
HCFC Blend A	56.2	600	850	680
	56.2	360	540	432
HFC 23	54	608.9†	2182	1746
	48	608.9†	1713	1371
	45	608.9†	1560	1248
	40	608.9†	1382	1106
	35	608.9†	1258	1007
	30	608.9†	1158	927
HCFC-124	74	240	354	283
HCFC-124	74	360	580	464
HFC-125	54	360	615	492
HFC 125	56	600	1045	836
HFC-236fa	74	240	360	280
HFC-236fa	75	360	600	480
HFC-236fa	74	600	1100	880
HFC Blend B	58	360	586	469
	58	600	888	710
FK-5-1-12	90	150†	175	150
	90	195	225	195
	90	360	413	360
	75	500	575	500
	90	610	700	610

*Nitrogen delivered to agent cylinder through a flow restrictor upon system actuation. Nitrogen supply cylinder pressure is 1800 psi at 70°F (21°C).

†Not superpressurized with nitrogen.

4.2.4.4 Where directional valves are used for multi-hazard protection, the directional valves shall be listed or approved for use with the installed suppression system.

4.2.4.5 Where directional valves are used for multi-hazard protection, the control equipment shall be specifically listed for the number, type and operation of those valves.

4.2.5 Discharge Nozzles.

4.2.5.1 Discharge nozzles shall be listed for the intended use. Listing criteria shall include flow characteristics, area coverage, height limits, and minimum pressures. Discharge orifices and discharge orifice plates and inserts shall be of a material that is corrosion resistant to the agent used and the atmosphere in the intended application.

4.2.5.2 Special corrosion-resistant materials or coatings shall be required in severely corrosive atmospheres.

4.2.5.3 Discharge nozzles shall be permanently marked to identify the manufacturer as well as the type and size of the orifice.

4.2.5.4 Where clogging by external foreign materials is likely, discharge nozzles shall be provided with frangible discs, blow-off caps, or other suitable devices. These devices shall provide an unobstructed opening upon system operation and shall be located so they will not injure personnel.

4.3 Detection, Actuation, Alarm, and Control Systems.

4.3.1 General.

4.3.1.1 Detection, actuation, alarm, and control systems shall be installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with appropriate NFPA protective signaling systems standards. (See NFPA 70 and NFPA 72. In Canada refer to ULC S524-M91 and ULC S529-M87.)

4.3.1.2 Automatic detection and automatic actuation shall be used.

4.3.1.2.1 Manual-only actuation shall be permitted if acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

4.3.1.3 Initiating and releasing circuits shall be installed in raceways. Other than as permitted in 4.3.1.3.1, alternating current (ac) and direct current (dc) wiring shall not be combined in a common conduit or raceway.

4.3.1.3.1 Ac and dc wiring shall be permitted to be combined in a common conduit or raceway where shielded and grounded.

4.3.2 Automatic Detection.

4.3.2.1* Automatic detection shall be by any listed method or device capable of detecting and indicating heat, flame, smoke, combustible vapors, or an abnormal condition in the hazard, such as process trouble, that is likely to produce fire.

4.3.2.2 Adequate and reliable primary and 24 hour minimum standby sources of energy shall be used to provide for operation of the detection, signaling, control, and actuation requirements of the system.

4.3.2.3 When a new agent system is being installed in a space that has an existing detection system, an analysis shall be made of the detection devices to ensure that the detection system is in good operating condition and will respond promptly to a fire situation. This analysis shall be done to assist in limiting the decomposition products from a suppression event.

4.3.3 Operating Devices.

4.3.3.1 Operating devices shall include agent releasing devices or valves, discharge controls, and shutdown equipment necessary for successful performance of the system.

4.3.3.2 Operation shall be by listed mechanical, electrical, or pneumatic means. An adequate and reliable source of energy shall be used.

4.3.3.3 All devices shall be designed for the service they will encounter and shall not readily be rendered inoperative or susceptible to accidental operation. Devices normally shall be designed to function properly from -20°F to 130°F (-29°C to 54°C) or marked to indicate temperature limitations.

4.3.3.4 All devices shall be located, installed, or suitably protected so that they are not subject to mechanical, chemical, or other damage that would render them inoperative.

4.3.3.5 A means of manual release of the system shall be provided. Manual release shall be accomplished by a mechanical manual release or by an electrical manual release when the control equipment monitors the battery voltage level of the standby battery supply and will provide a low battery signal. The release shall cause simultaneous operation of automatically operated valves controlling agent release and distribution.

4.3.3.5.1* A discharge pressure switch shall be required where mechanical system actuation is possible.

4.3.3.5.2 The discharge pressure switch shall provide an alarm initiating signal to the releasing panel.

4.3.3.6 The normal manual control(s) for actuation shall be located for easy accessibility at all times, including at the time of a fire. The manual control(s) shall be of distinct appearance and clearly recognizable for the purpose intended. Operation of any control shall cause the complete system to operate in its normal fashion.

4.3.3.7 Manual controls shall not require a pull of more than 40 lb (178 N) nor a movement of more than 14 in. (356 mm) to secure operation. At least one manual control for activation shall be located not more than 4 ft (1.2 m) above the floor.

4.3.3.8 Where gas pressure from the system or pilot containers is used as a means for releasing the remaining containers, the supply and discharge rate shall be designed for releasing all of the remaining containers.

4.3.3.9 All devices for shutting down supplementary equipment shall be considered integral parts of the system and shall function with the system operation.

4.3.3.10 All manual operating devices shall be identified as to the hazard they protect.

4.3.4 Control Equipment.

4.3.4.1 Electric Control Equipment. The control equipment shall supervise the actuating devices and associated wiring

and, as required, cause actuation. The control equipment shall be specifically listed for the number and type of actuating devices utilized, and their compatibility shall have been listed.

4.3.4.2 Pneumatic Control Equipment. Where pneumatic control equipment is used, the lines shall be protected against crimping and mechanical damage. Where installations could be exposed to conditions that could lead to loss of integrity of the pneumatic lines, special precautions shall be taken to ensure that no loss of integrity will occur. The control equipment shall be specifically listed for the number and type of actuating devices utilized, and their compatibility shall have been listed.

4.3.5 Operating Alarms and Indicators.

4.3.5.1 Alarms or indicators or both shall be used to indicate the operation of the system, hazards to personnel, or failure of any supervised device. The type (audible, visual, or olfactory), number, and location of the devices shall be such that their purpose is satisfactorily accomplished. The extent and type of alarms or indicator equipment or both shall be approved.

4.3.5.2 Audible and visual pre-discharge alarms shall be provided within the protected area to give positive warning of impending discharge. The operation of the warning devices shall be continued after agent discharge until positive action has been taken to acknowledge the alarm and proceed with appropriate action.

4.3.5.3* Abort switches, where provided, shall be located within the protected area and shall be located near the means of egress for the area. The abort switch shall be of a type that requires constant manual pressure to cause abort. In all cases the normal and manual emergency control shall override the abort function. Operation of the abort function shall result in both audible and distinct visual indication of system impairment. The abort switch shall be clearly recognizable for the purpose intended.

4.3.5.4 Alarms indicating failure of supervised devices or equipment shall give prompt and positive indication of any failure and shall be distinctive from alarms indicating operation or hazardous conditions.

4.3.5.5 Warning and instruction signs at entrances to and inside protected areas shall be provided.

4.3.5.5.1 Warning and safety instruction signs shall be located such that they will be readily visible to personnel in the area where the clean agent design concentration exceeds that approved for use in normally occupied spaces. The safety sign format, color, and the letter style of the signal words shall be in accordance with ANSI Z535.

4.3.5.5.2 Warning and safety instruction signs shall be located outside each entrance to clean agent cylinder storage rooms. The safety sign format, color, and the letter style of the signal words shall be in accordance with ANSI Z535.

4.3.5.6 Time Delays.

4.3.5.6.1* For clean agent extinguishing systems, a pre-discharge alarm and time delay, sufficient to allow personnel evacuation prior to discharge, shall be provided. For hazard areas subject to fast growth fires, where the provision of a time delay would seriously increase the threat to life and property, a time delay shall be permitted to be eliminated.

4.3.5.6.2 Time delays shall be used only for personnel evacuation or to prepare the hazard area for discharge.



4.3.5.6.3 Time delays shall not be used as a means of confirming operation of a detection device before automatic actuation occurs.

4.3.6* Unwanted System Operation. To avoid unwanted discharge of a clean agent system, a supervised disconnect switch shall be provided. The disconnect switch, when operated, shall interrupt the releasing circuit to the suppression system.

Chapter 5 System Design

5.1 Specifications, Plans, and Approvals.

5.1.1 Specifications. Specifications for total flooding and local application clean agent fire extinguishing systems shall be prepared under the supervision of a person fully experienced and qualified in the design of such systems and with the advice of the authority having jurisdiction. The specifications shall include all pertinent items necessary for the proper design of the system, such as the designation of the authority having jurisdiction, variances from the standard to be permitted by the authority having jurisdiction, design criteria, system sequence of operations, the type and extent of the approval testing to be performed after installation of the system, and owner training requirements.

5.1.2 Working Plans.

5.1.2.1 Working plans and calculations shall be submitted for approval to the authority having jurisdiction before system installation or remodeling begins. These documents shall be prepared only by persons fully experienced and qualified in the design of total flooding and local application clean agent fire extinguishing systems. Deviation from these documents shall require permission of the authority having jurisdiction.

5.1.2.2 Working plans shall be drawn to an indicated scale and shall show the following items that pertain to the design of the system:

- (1) Name of owner and occupant.
- (2) Location, including street address.
- (3) Point of compass and symbol legend.
- (4) Location and construction of protected enclosure walls and partitions.
- (5) Location of fire walls.
- (6) Enclosure cross section, full height or schematic diagram, including location and construction of building floor/ceiling assemblies above and below, raised access floor and suspended ceiling.
- (7) Agent being used.
- (8) Design extinguishing or inerting concentration.
- (9) Description of occupancies and hazards being protected, designating whether or not the enclosure is normally occupied.
- (10) For an enclosure protected by a clean agent fire extinguishing system an estimate of the maximum positive and the maximum negative pressure, relative to ambient pressure, expected to be developed upon the discharge of agent.
- (11) Description of exposures surrounding the enclosure.
- (12) Description of the agent storage containers used including internal volume, storage pressure, and nominal capacity expressed in units of agent mass or volume at standard conditions of temperature and pressure.

- (13) Description of nozzle(s) used including size, orifice port configuration, and equivalent orifice area.
- (14) Description of pipe and fittings used including material specifications, grade, and pressure rating.
- (15) Description of wire or cable used including classification, gauge [American Wire Gauge (AWG)], shielding, number of strands in conductor, conductor material, and color coding schedule. Segregation requirements of various system conductors shall be clearly indicated. The required method of making wire terminations shall be detailed.
- (16) Description of the method of detector mounting.
- (17) Equipment schedule or bill of materials for each piece of equipment or device showing device name, manufacturer, model or part number, quantity, and description.
- (18) Plan view of protected area showing enclosure partitions (full and partial height); agent distribution system including agent storage containers, piping, and nozzles; type of pipe hangers and rigid pipe supports; detection, alarm, and control system including all devices and schematic of wiring interconnection between them; end-of-line device locations; location of controlled devices such as dampers and shutters; and location of instructional signage.
- (19) Isometric view of agent distribution system showing the length and diameter of each pipe segment; node reference numbers relating to the flow calculations; fittings including reducers and strainers; and orientation of tees, nozzles including size, orifice port configuration, flow rate, and equivalent orifice area.
- (20) Scale drawing showing the layout of the annunciator panel graphics if required by the authority having jurisdiction.
- (21) Details of each unique rigid pipe support configuration showing method of securement to the pipe and to the building structure.
- (22) Details of the method of container securement showing method of securement to the container and to the building structure.
- (23) Complete step-by-step description of the system sequence of operations, including functioning of abort and maintenance switches, delay timers, and emergency power shutdown.
- (24) Point-to-point wiring schematic diagrams showing all circuit connections to the system control panel and graphic annunciator panel.
- (25) Point-to-point wiring schematic diagrams showing all circuit connections to external or add-on relays.
- (26) Complete calculations to determine enclosure volume, quantity of clean agent, and size of backup batteries and method used to determine number and location of audible and visual indicating devices, and number and location of detectors.
- (27) Details of any special features.
- (28)*Pressure relief vent area, or equivalent leakage area, for the protected enclosure to prevent development, during system discharge, of a pressure difference across the enclosure boundaries that exceeds a specified enclosure pressure limit.

5.1.2.3 The detail on the system shall include information and calculations on the amount of agent; container storage pressure; internal volume of the container; the location, type, and flow rate of each nozzle including equivalent orifice area; the location, size, and equivalent lengths of pipe, fittings, and hose; and the location and size of the storage facility. Pipe size

reduction and orientation of tees shall be clearly indicated. Information shall be submitted pertaining to the location and function of the detection devices, operating devices, auxiliary equipment, and electrical circuitry, if used. Apparatus and devices used shall be identified. Any special features shall be adequately explained.

5.1.2.3.1 Pre-engineered systems shall not be required to specify an internal volume of the container, nozzle flow rates, equivalent lengths of pipe and fitting and hose, or flow calculations, when used within their listed limitations. The information required by the listed system design manual, however, shall be made available to the authority having jurisdiction for verification that the system is within its listed limitations.

5.1.2.4 An “as built” instruction and maintenance manual that includes a full sequence of operations and a full set of drawings and calculations shall be maintained on site.

5.1.2.5 Flow Calculations.

5.1.2.5.1 Flow calculations along with the working plans shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction for approval. The version of the flow calculation program shall be identified on the computer calculation printout.

5.1.2.5.2 Where field conditions necessitate any material change from approved plans, the change shall be submitted for approval.

5.1.2.5.3 When such material changes from approved plans are made, corrected “as installed” plans shall be provided.

5.1.3 Approval of Plans.

5.1.3.1 Plans and calculations shall be approved prior to installation.

5.1.3.2 Where field conditions necessitate any significant change from approved plans, the change shall be approved prior to implementation.

5.1.3.3 When such significant changes from approved plans are made, the working plans shall be updated to accurately represent the system as installed.

5.2* System Flow Calculations.

5.2.1* System flow calculations shall be performed using a calculation method listed or approved by the authority having jurisdiction. The system design shall be within the manufacturer’s listed limitations.

5.2.1.1 Designs involving pre-engineered systems shall not be required to be provided with flow calculations in accordance with 5.1.2.5 where used within their listed limitations.

5.2.2 Valves and fittings shall be rated for equivalent length in terms of pipe or tubing sizes with which they will be used. The equivalent length of the container valve shall be listed and shall include siphon tube, valve, discharge head, and flexible connector.

5.2.3 Piping lengths and orientation of fittings and nozzles shall be in accordance with the manufacturer’s listed limitations.

5.2.4 If the final installation varies from the prepared drawings and calculations, new drawings and calculations representing the “as built” installation shall be prepared.

5.3 Enclosure.

5.3.1 In the design of a total flooding system, the characteristics of the protected enclosure shall be considered.

5.3.2 The area of unclosable openings in the protected enclosure shall be kept to a minimum.

5.3.3 The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to require pressurization/depressurization of the protected enclosure or other tests to assure performance meeting the requirements of this standard. (*See Annex C.*)

5.3.4 To prevent loss of agent through openings to adjacent hazards or work areas, openings shall be permanently sealed or equipped with automatic closures. Where reasonable confinement of agent is not practicable, protection shall be expanded to include the adjacent connected hazards or work areas or additional agent shall be introduced into the protected enclosure using an extended discharge configuration.

5.3.5* Other than the ventilation systems identified in 5.3.5.2, forced-air ventilating systems, including self-contained air recirculation systems, shall be shut down or closed automatically where their continued operation would adversely affect the performance of the fire extinguishing system or result in propagation of the fire.

5.3.5.1 If not shut down or closed automatically, the volume of the self-contained recirculating undamped ventilation system ducts and components mounted below the ceiling height of the protected space shall be considered as part of the total hazard volume when determining the quantity of agent.

5.3.5.2 Ventilation systems necessary to ensure safety shall not be required to be shut down upon activation of the fire suppression system. An extended agent discharge shall be provided to maintain the design concentration for the required duration of protection.

5.3.6* The protected enclosure shall have the structural strength and integrity necessary to contain the agent discharge. If the developed pressures present a threat to the structural strength of the enclosure, venting shall be provided to prevent excessive pressures. Designers shall consult system manufacturer’s recommended procedures relative to enclosure venting. [For pressure relief vent area or equivalent leakage area, see 5.1.2.2(28).]

5.4 Design Concentration Requirements.

5.4.1 The flame extinguishing or inerting concentrations shall be used in determining the agent design concentration for a particular fuel. For combinations of fuels, the flame extinguishment or inerting value for the fuel requiring the greatest concentration shall be used unless tests are made on the actual mixture.

5.4.2* Flame Extinguishment.

5.4.2.1 The flame extinguishing concentration for Class B fuels shall be determined by the cup burner method described in Annex B.

CAUTION: Under certain conditions, it can be dangerous to extinguish a burning gas jet. As a first measure, the gas supply shall be shut off.

5.4.2.2* The flame extinguishing concentration for Class A fuels shall be determined by test as part of a listing program. As a minimum, the listing program shall conform to UL 2127 or UL 2166 or equivalent.

5.4.2.3 The minimum design concentration for a Class B fuel hazard or a manual-only actuated system shall be the extinguishing concentration, as determined in 5.4.2.1, times a safety factor of 1.3.

5.4.2.4* The minimum design concentration for a Class A surface fire hazard shall be the extinguishing concentration, as determined in 5.4.2.2, times a safety factor of 1.2.

5.4.2.5 Minimum design concentration for Class C hazards shall be at least that for Class A surface fire.

5.4.3* Inerting.

5.4.3.1 The inerting concentration shall be determined by test.

5.4.3.2* The inerting concentration shall be used in determining the agent design concentration where conditions for subsequent reflash or explosion exist.

5.4.3.3 The minimum design concentration used to inert the atmosphere of an enclosure where the hazard is a flammable liquid or gas shall be the inerting concentration times a safety factor of 1.1.

5.5 Total Flooding Quantity.

5.5.1* The amount of halocarbon agent required to achieve the design concentration shall be calculated from the following formula:

$$W = \frac{V}{S} \left(\frac{C}{100 - C} \right) \quad (5.5.1)$$

where:

W = weight of clean agent [lb (kg)]

V = net volume of hazard, calculated as the gross volume minus the volume of fixed structures impervious to clean agent vapor [ft³ (m³)]

S = specific volume of the superheated agent vapor at 1 atmosphere and the temperature, t [ft³/lb (m³/kg)]

C = agent design concentration (volume percent)

t = minimum anticipated temperature of the protected volume [°F (°C)]

5.5.1.1 This calculation includes an allowance for the normal leakage from a "tight" enclosure due to agent expansion.

5.5.1.2 Total flooding quantities based on Equation 5.5.1 are given in Table A.5.5.1(a) through Table A.5.5.1(r).

5.5.2* The amount of inert gas agent required to achieve the design concentration shall be calculated using Equation 5.5.2, 5.5.2.1a, or 5.5.2.1b:

$$X = 2.303 \left(\frac{V_s}{s} \right) \text{Log}_{10} \left(\frac{100}{100 - C} \right) \quad (5.5.2)$$

where:

X = volume of inert gas added at standard conditions of 14.7 psia, 70°F (1.013 bar, 21°C) per volume of hazard space [ft³/ft³ (m³/m³)]

V_s = specific volume of inert gas agent at 70°F (21°C) and 14.7 psia (1.013 bar)

s = specific volume of inert gas at 1 atmosphere and the temperature, t [ft³/lb (m³/kg)]

t = minimum anticipated temperature of the protected volume [°F (°C)]

C = inert gas design concentration (volume percent)

5.5.2.1 This calculation includes an allowance for the leakage of agent from a "tight" enclosure. An alternative equation for calculating the inert gas clean agent concentrations shall be as follows:

(5.5.2.1a)

$$X = 2.303 \left(\frac{530}{460 + t} \right) \text{Log}_{10} \left(\frac{100}{100 - C} \right) \text{ where } t \text{ is in } ^\circ\text{F}$$

(5.5.2.1b)

$$X = 2.303 \left(\frac{294.4}{273 + t} \right) \text{Log}_{10} \left(\frac{100}{100 - C} \right) \text{ where } t \text{ is in } ^\circ\text{C}$$

5.5.2.2 Total flooding quantities based on Equations 5.5.2.1a and 5.5.2.1b are given in Table A.5.5.2(a) through Table A.5.5.2(h).

5.5.3* Design Factors. In addition to the concentration requirements, additional quantities of agent are required through the use of design factors to compensate for any special conditions that would affect the extinguishing efficiency.

5.5.3.1* Tee Design Factor. Other than as identified in 5.5.3.1.3, where a single agent supply is used to protect multiple hazards, a design factor from Table 5.5.3.1 shall be applied.

Table 5.5.3.1 Design Factors for Piping Tees

Design Factor Tee Count	Halocarbon Design Factor	Inert Gas Design Factor
0-4	0.00	0.00
5	0.01	0.00
6	0.02	0.00
7	0.03	0.00
8	0.04	0.00
9	0.05	0.01
10	0.06	0.01
11	0.07	0.02
12	0.07	0.02
13	0.08	0.03
14	0.09	0.03
15	0.09	0.04
16	0.10	0.04
17	0.11	0.05
18	0.11	0.05
19	0.12	0.06

5.5.3.1.1 For the application of Table 5.5.3.1, the design factor tee count shall be determined for each hazard the system protects, using the following guidelines:

- (1) Starting from the point where the pipe system enters the hazard, the number of tees in the flow path returning to the agent supply shall be included (do not include tees used in a manifold) in the design factor tee count for the hazard.
- (2) Any tee within the hazard that supplies agent to another hazard shall be included in the design factor tee count for the hazard.

5.5.3.1.2 The hazard with the greatest design factor tee count shall be used in Table 5.5.3.1 to determine the design factor.

5.5.3.1.3 For systems that pass a discharge test, this design factor shall not apply.

5.5.3.2* Additional Design Factors. The designer shall assign and document additional design factors for each of the following:

- (1) Unclosable openings and their effects on distribution and concentration (*see also* 5.8.2)
- (2) Control of acid gases

- (3) Re-ignition from heated surfaces
- (4) Fuel type, configurations, scenarios not fully accounted for in the extinguishing concentration, enclosure geometry, and obstructions and their effects on distribution

5.5.3.3* Design Factor for Enclosure Pressure. The design quantity of the clean agent shall be adjusted to compensate for ambient pressures that vary more than 11 percent [equivalent to approximately 3000 ft (915 m) of elevation change] from standard sea level pressures [29.92 in. Hg at 70°F (760 mm Hg at 0°C)]. (See Table 5.5.3.3.)

Table 5.5.3.3 Atmospheric Correction Factors

Equivalent Altitude		Enclosure Pressure		Atmospheric Correction Factor
ft	km	psia	mm Hg	
–3,000	–0.92	16.25	840	1.11
–2,000	–0.61	15.71	812	1.07
–1,000	–0.30	15.23	787	1.04
0	0.00	14.70	760	1.00
1,000	0.30	14.18	733	0.96
2,000	0.61	13.64	705	0.93
3,000	0.91	13.12	678	0.89
4,000	1.22	12.58	650	0.86
5,000	1.52	12.04	622	0.82
6,000	1.83	11.53	596	0.78
7,000	2.13	11.03	570	0.75
8,000	2.45	10.64	550	0.72
9,000	2.74	10.22	528	0.69
10,000	3.05	9.77	505	0.66

5.6* Duration of Protection. A minimum concentration of 85 percent of the design concentration shall be held at the highest level of combustibles for a minimum period of 10 minutes or for a time period to allow for response by trained personnel. It is important that the agent design concentration not only shall be achieved, but also shall be maintained for the specified period of time to allow effective emergency action by trained personnel. This is equally important in all classes of fires, since a persistent ignition source (e.g., an arc, heat source, oxyacetylene torch, or “deep-seated” fire) can lead to resurgence of the initial event once the clean agent has dissipated.

5.7 Distribution System.

5.7.1 Rate of Application.

5.7.1.1 The minimum design rate of application shall be based on the quantity of agent required for the desired concentration and the time allotted to achieve the desired concentration.

5.7.1.2* Discharge Time.

5.7.1.2.1* For halocarbon agents, the discharge time required to achieve 95 percent of the minimum design concentration for flame extinguishment based on a 20 percent safety factor shall not exceed 10 seconds, or as otherwise required by the authority having jurisdiction.

5.7.1.2.2* For inert gas agents, the discharge time required to achieve 95 percent of the minimum design concentration for flame extinguishment based on a 20 percent safety factor shall not exceed 60 seconds, or as otherwise required by the authority having jurisdiction.

5.7.1.2.3* The discharge time period is defined as the time required to discharge from the nozzles 95 percent of the agent mass [at 70°F (21°C)] necessary to achieve the minimum design concentration based on a 20 percent safety factor for flame extinguishment.

5.7.1.2.4 Flow calculations performed in accordance with Section 5.2, or in accordance with the listed pre-engineered systems instruction manuals, shall be used to demonstrate compliance with 5.7.1.2.

5.7.1.2.5 For explosion prevention systems, the discharge time for agents shall ensure that the minimum inerting design concentration is achieved before concentration of flammable vapors reach the flammable range.

5.7.2* Extended Discharge. When an extended discharge is necessary to maintain the design concentration for the specified period of time, additional agent quantities can be applied at a reduced rate. The initial discharge shall be completed within the limits specified in 5.7.1.2. The performance of the extended discharge system shall be confirmed by test.

5.8 Nozzle Choice and Location.

5.8.1 Nozzles shall be of the type listed for the intended purpose and shall be placed within the protected enclosure in compliance with listed limitations with regard to spacing, floor coverage, and alignment.

5.8.2 The type of nozzles selected, their number, and their placement shall be such that the design concentration will be established in all parts of the hazard enclosure and such that the discharge will not unduly splash flammable liquids or create dust clouds that could extend the fire, create an explosion, or otherwise adversely affect the contents or integrity of the enclosure.

Chapter 6 Local Application Systems

6.1 Description. A local application system shall consist of a fixed supply of clean agent permanently connected to a system of fixed piping with nozzles arranged to discharge directly into the fire.

6.1.1 Uses. Local application systems shall be used for the extinguishment of surface fires in flammable liquids, gases, and shallow solids where the hazard is not enclosed or where the enclosure does not conform to the requirements for total flooding.

6.1.2 General Requirements. Local application systems shall be designed, installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with the applicable requirements of this standard.

6.1.3* Safety Requirements. The safety requirements of Section 1.5 shall apply. During agent discharge, locally high concentrations of the agent will be developed; therefore the requirements of Section 1.5 shall be followed to prevent exposure of personnel to high concentrations of agent.

6.2 Hazard Specifications.

6.2.1 Extent of Hazard. The hazard shall be so isolated from other hazards or combustibles that fire will not spread outside the protected area.

6.2.1.1 The entire hazard shall be protected.



6.2.1.2 The hazard shall include all areas that are or can become coated by combustible liquids or shallow solid coatings, such as areas subject to spillage, leakage, dripping, splashing, or condensation.

6.2.1.3 The hazard shall also include all associated materials or equipment, such as freshly coated stock, drain boards, hoods, ducts, and so forth, that could extend fire outside or lead fire into the protected area.

6.2.1.4 A series of interexposed hazards shall be permitted to be subdivided into smaller groups or sections with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction.

6.2.1.4.1 Systems for such hazards shall be designed to give immediate independent protection to adjacent groups or sections as needed.

6.2.2 Location of Hazard.

6.2.2.1 The hazard shall be permitted to be indoors, partly sheltered, or completely out of doors.

6.2.2.2 It is essential that the clean agent discharge shall be such that winds or strong air currents do not impair the protection. It shall be the responsibility of the system designer to show that such conditions have been taken into account in the design of a system.

6.3 Clean Agent Requirements. The quantity of clean agent required for local application systems shall be based on the rate of discharge and the time that the discharge must be maintained to ensure complete extinguishment. The minimum design quantity shall be no less than 1.5 times the minimum quantity required for extinguishment at any selected system discharge rate.

6.4 Nozzles.

6.4.1 Nozzle Selection. The basis for nozzle selection shall be listed performance data that clearly depicts the interrelationship between agent quantity, discharge rate, discharge time, area coverage, and the distance of the nozzle from the protected surface.

6.4.1.1* The maximum permitted time to extinguish a fire with a halocarbon agent shall be 10 seconds.

6.4.1.2* The maximum permitted time to extinguish a fire with an inert gas agent shall be 30 seconds.

6.4.1.3* Where flammable liquid fires of appreciable depth [over ¼ in. (6 mm)] are to be protected, a minimum freeboard of 6 in. (152 mm) shall be provided unless otherwise noted in approvals or listings of nozzles.

6.4.2 Nozzle Discharge Rates. The design discharge rate through individual nozzles shall be determined on the basis of location or projection distance in accordance with specific approvals or listings.

6.4.2.1 The system discharge rate shall be the sum of the individual rates of all the nozzles and discharge devices used in the system.

6.4.3 Discharge Time. The minimum design discharge time shall be determined by dividing the design quantity by the design rate.

6.4.3.1 The discharge time shall be increased to compensate for any hazard condition that would require a longer cooling period to prevent re-ignition.

6.4.3.2 Where there is a possibility that metal or other material can become heated above the ignition temperature of the fuel, the effective discharge time shall be increased to allow adequate cooling time.

6.4.3.3* Where the fuel has an auto-ignition point below its boiling point, such as paraffin wax and cooking oils, the effective discharge time shall be increased to permit cooling of the fuel to prevent re-ignition.

6.5 Location and Number of Nozzles.

6.5.1* A sufficient number of nozzles shall be used to cover the entire hazard area on the basis of the unit areas protected by each nozzle.

6.5.2 Local application nozzles shall be located in accordance with spacing and discharge rate limitations stated in nozzle listings.

6.5.3 Nozzles shall be located so as to protect coated stock or other hazards extending above a protected surface.

6.5.4* Nozzles shall be located so as to be free of possible obstructions that could interfere with the proper projection of the discharged agent.

6.6* Operation. The system shall be designed for automatic operation except where the authority having jurisdiction permits manual operation.

Chapter 7 Inspection, Testing, Maintenance, and Training

7.1 Inspection and Tests.

7.1.1 At least annually, all systems shall be thoroughly inspected and tested for proper operation by personnel qualified in the installation and testing of clean agent extinguishing systems. Discharge tests shall not be required.

7.1.2 The inspection report with recommendations shall be filed with the owner of the system.

7.1.3 At least semiannually, the agent quantity and pressure of refillable containers shall be checked.

7.1.3.1 For halocarbon clean agents, if a container shows a loss in agent quantity of more than 5 percent or a loss in pressure (adjusted for temperature) of more than 10 percent, it shall be refilled or replaced.

7.1.3.2 For inert gas clean agents that are not liquefied, pressure is an indication of agent quantity. If an inert gas clean agent container shows a loss in pressure (adjusted for temperature) of more than 5 percent, it shall be refilled or replaced. Where container pressure gauges are used for this purpose, they shall be compared to a separate calibrated device at least annually.

7.1.3.3 Where the amount of agent in the container is determined by special measuring devices, these devices shall be listed.

7.1.4* All halocarbon clean agent removed from refillable containers during service or maintenance procedures shall be collected and recycled or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

7.1.5 Factory-charged, nonrefillable containers that do not have a means of pressure indication shall have the agent quantity checked at least semiannually. If a container shows a loss in

agent quantity of more than 5 percent, it shall be replaced. All factory-charged, nonrefillable containers removed from useful service shall be returned for recycling of the agent or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

7.1.6 For halocarbon clean agents, the date of inspection, gross weight of cylinder plus agent or net weight of agent, type of agent, person performing the inspection, and, where applicable, the pressure at a recorded temperature shall be recorded on a tag attached to the container. For inert gas clean agents, the date of inspection, type of agent, person performing the inspection, and the pressure at a recorded temperature shall be recorded on a tag attached to the container.

7.2 Container Test.

7.2.1* U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Canadian Transport Commission (CTC), or similar design clean agent containers shall not be recharged without retesting if more than 5 years have elapsed since the date of the last test and inspection. For halocarbon agent storage containers, the retest shall be permitted to consist of a complete visual inspection as described in 49 CFR.

7.2.2* Cylinders continuously in service without discharging shall be given a complete external visual inspection every 5 years or more frequently if required. The visual inspection shall be in accordance with Section 3 of CGA C-6, except that the cylinders need not be emptied or stamped while under pressure. Inspections shall be made only by competent personnel, and the results recorded on both of the following:

- (1) A record tag permanently attached to each cylinder
- (2) A suitable inspection report

7.2.2.1 A completed copy of the inspection report shall be furnished to the owner of the system or an authorized representative. These records shall be retained by the owner for the life of the system.

7.2.3 Where external visual inspection indicates that the container has been damaged, additional strength tests shall be required.

7.3 Hose Test.

7.3.1 General. All system hose shall be examined annually for damage. If visual examination shows any deficiency, the hose shall be immediately replaced or tested as specified in 7.3.2.

7.3.2 Testing.

7.3.2.1 All hose shall be tested every 5 years.

7.3.2.2 All hose shall be tested at 1½ times the maximum container pressure at 130°F (54.4°C). The testing procedure shall be as follows:

- (1) The hose is removed from any attachment.
- (2) The hose assembly is then placed in a protective enclosure designed to permit visual observation of the test.
- (3) The hose must be completely filled with water before testing.
- (4) Pressure then is applied at a rate-of-pressure rise to reach the test pressure within a minimum of 1 minute. The test pressure is maintained for 1 full minute. Observations are then made to note any distortion or leakage.
- (5) If the test pressure has not dropped or if the couplings have not moved, the pressure is released. The hose assembly is then considered to have passed the hydrostatic test if no permanent distortion has taken place.

- (6) Hose assembly passing the test must be completely dried internally. If heat is used for drying, the temperature must not exceed the manufacturer's specifications.
- (7) Hose assemblies failing a hydrostatic test must be marked and destroyed and be replaced with new assemblies.
- (8) Each hose assembly passing the hydrostatic test is marked to show the date of test.

7.4 Enclosure Inspection. Other than as identified in 7.4.1, the enclosure protected by the clean agent shall be thoroughly inspected at least every 12 months to determine if penetrations have occurred that could lead to agent leakage or other changes have occurred that could change volume of hazard, or both. Where the inspection indicates conditions that could result in the inability to maintain the clean agent concentration, the conditions shall be corrected. If uncertainty still exists, the enclosures shall be retested for integrity in accordance with 7.7.2.3.

7.4.1 An enclosure inspection shall not be required every 12 months if a documented administrative control program exists that addresses barrier integrity.

7.5* Maintenance.

7.5.1 These systems shall be maintained in full operating condition at all times. Actuation, impairment, and restoration of this protection shall be reported promptly to the authority having jurisdiction.

7.5.2 Any troubles or impairments shall be corrected in a timely manner consistent with the hazard protected.

7.5.3* Any penetrations made through the enclosure protected by the clean agent shall be sealed immediately. The method of sealing shall restore the original fire resistance rating of the enclosure.

7.6 Training.

7.6.1 All persons who could be expected to inspect, test, maintain, or operate fire extinguishing systems shall be thoroughly trained and kept thoroughly trained in the functions they are expected to perform.

7.6.2* Personnel working in an enclosure protected by a clean agent shall receive training regarding agent safety issues.

7.7 Approval of Installations.

7.7.1 General. The completed system shall be reviewed and tested by qualified personnel to meet the approval of the authority having jurisdiction. Only listed equipment and devices shall be used in the systems. To determine that the system has been properly installed and will function as specified, the following tests shall be performed.

7.7.2 Installation Acceptance.

7.7.2.1 General. It shall be determined that the protected enclosure is in general conformance with the construction documents.

7.7.2.2 Review Mechanical Components.

7.7.2.2.1 The piping distribution system shall be inspected to determine that it is in compliance with the design and installation documents.

7.7.2.2.2 Nozzles and pipe size shall be in accordance with system drawings. Means of pipe size reduction and attitudes of tees shall be checked for conformance to the design.



7.7.2.2.3 Piping joints, discharge nozzles, and piping supports shall be securely fastened to prevent unacceptable vertical or lateral movement during discharge. Discharge nozzles shall be installed in such a manner that piping cannot become detached during discharge.

7.7.2.2.4 During assembly, the piping distribution system shall be inspected internally to detect the possibility of any oil or particulate matter soiling the hazard area or affecting the agent distribution due to a reduction in the effective nozzle orifice area.

7.7.2.2.5 The discharge nozzle shall be oriented in such a manner that optimum agent dispersal can be effected.

7.7.2.2.6 If nozzle deflectors are installed, they shall be positioned to obtain maximum benefit.

7.7.2.2.7 The discharge nozzles, piping, and mounting brackets shall be installed in such a manner that they will not potentially cause injury to personnel. Agent shall not directly impinge on areas where personnel could be found in the normal work area. Agent shall not directly impinge on any loose objects or shelves, cabinet tops, or similar surfaces where loose objects could be present and become missiles.

7.7.2.2.8 All agent storage containers shall be properly located in accordance with an approved set of system drawings.

7.7.2.2.9 All containers and mounting brackets shall be fastened securely in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

7.7.2.2.10* If a discharge test is to be conducted, containers for the agent to be used shall be weighed before and after discharge. Fill weight of containers shall be verified by weighing or other approved methods. For inert gas clean agents, container pressure shall be recorded before and after discharge.

7.7.2.2.11 Adequate quantity of agent to produce the desired specified concentration shall be provided. The actual room volumes shall be checked against those indicated on the system drawings to ensure the proper quantity of agent. Fan coastdown and damper closure time shall be taken into consideration.

7.7.2.2.12 The piping shall be pneumatically tested in a closed circuit for a period of 10 minutes at 40 psi (276 kPa). At the end of 10 minutes, the pressure drop shall not exceed 20 percent of the test pressure.

7.7.2.2.12.1 The pressure test shall be permitted to be omitted if the total piping contains no more than one change in direction fitting between the storage container and the discharge nozzle, and where all piping is physically checked for tightness.

7.7.2.2.13* A flow test using nitrogen or an inert gas shall be performed on the piping network to verify that flow is continuous and that the piping and nozzles are unobstructed.

7.7.2.3* Review Enclosure Integrity. All total flooding systems shall have the enclosure examined and tested to locate and then effectively seal any significant air leaks that could result in a failure of the enclosure to hold the specified agent concentration level for the specified holding period. The currently preferred method is using a blower door fan unit and smoke pencil. Quantitative results shall be obtained and recorded to indicate that the specified agent concentration for the specified duration of protection is in compliance with Section 5.6, using an approved blower fan unit or other means as approved by the authority having jurisdiction. (*For guidance, see Annex C.*)

7.7.2.4 Review Electrical Components.

7.7.2.4.1 All wiring systems shall be properly installed in compliance with local codes and the system drawings. Alternating current (ac) and direct current (dc) wiring shall not be combined in a common conduit or raceway unless properly shielded and grounded.

7.7.2.4.2 All field circuits shall be free of ground faults and short circuits. Where field circuitry is being measured, all electronic components, such as smoke and flame detectors or special electronic equipment for other detectors or their mounting bases, shall be removed and jumpers shall be properly installed to prevent the possibility of damage within these devices. Components shall be replaced after measuring.

7.7.2.4.3 Power shall be supplied to the control unit from a separate dedicated source that will not be shut down upon system operation.

7.7.2.4.4 Adequate and reliable primary and 24 hour minimum standby sources of energy shall be used to provide for operation of the detection, signaling, control, and actuation requirements of the system.

7.7.2.4.5 All auxiliary functions such as alarm-sounding or displaying devices, remote annunciators, air-handling shutdown, and power shutdown shall be checked for proper operation in accordance with system requirements and design specifications. If possible, all air-handling and power-cutoff controls shall be of the type that, once interrupted, require manual restart to restore power.

7.7.2.4.6 Silencing of alarms, if desirable, shall not affect other auxiliary functions such as air handling or power cutoff if required in the design specification.

7.7.2.4.7 The detection devices shall be checked for proper type and location as specified on the system drawings.

7.7.2.4.8 Detectors shall not be located near obstructions or air ventilation and cooling equipment that would appreciably affect their response characteristics. Where applicable, air changes for the protected area shall be taken into consideration. (*Refer to NFPA 72 and the manufacturer's recommended guidelines.*)

7.7.2.4.9 The detectors shall be installed in a professional manner and in accordance with technical data regarding their installation.

7.7.2.4.10 Manual pull stations shall be properly installed, readily accessible, accurately identified, and properly protected to prevent damage.

7.7.2.4.11 All manual stations used to release agents shall require two separate and distinct actions for operation. They shall be properly identified. Particular care shall be taken where manual release devices for more than one system are in close proximity and could be confused or the wrong system actuated. Manual stations in this instance shall be clearly identified as to which zone or suppression area they affect.

7.7.2.4.12 For systems with a main/reserve capability, the main/reserve switch shall be properly installed, readily accessible, and clearly identified.

7.7.2.4.13 For systems using abort switches, the switches shall be of the deadman type requiring constant manual pressure, properly installed, readily accessible within the hazard area, and clearly identified. Switches that remain in the abort position

when released shall not be used for this purpose. Manual pull stations shall always override abort switches.

7.7.2.4.14 The control unit shall be properly installed and readily accessible.

7.7.2.5 Functional Testing.

7.7.2.5.1 Preliminary Functional Tests. The following preliminary functional tests shall be performed:

- (1) If the system is connected to an alarm receiving office, notify the alarm receiving office that the fire system test is to be conducted and that an emergency response by the fire department or alarm station personnel is not desired. Notify all concerned personnel at the end-user's facility that a test is to be conducted and instruct personnel as to the sequence of operation.
- (2) Disable each agent storage container release mechanism so that activation of the release circuit will not release agent. Reconnect the release circuit with a functional device in lieu of each agent storage container release mechanism. For electrically actuated release mechanisms, these devices can include 24-V lamps, flashbulbs, or circuit breakers. Pneumatically actuated release mechanisms can include pressure gauges. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations in all cases.
- (3) Check each detector for proper response.
- (4) Check that polarity has been observed on all polarized alarm devices and auxiliary relays.
- (5) Check that all end-of-line resistors have been installed across the detection and alarm bell circuits, where required.
- (6) Check all supervised circuits for proper trouble response.

7.7.2.5.2 System Functional Operational Test. The following system functional operational tests shall be performed:

- (1) Operate detection initiating circuit(s). Verify that all alarm functions occur according to design specifications.
- (2) Operate the necessary circuit to initiate a second alarm circuit, if present. Verify that all second alarm functions occur according to design specifications.
- (3) Operate manual release. Verify that manual release functions occur according to design specifications.
- (4) Operate abort switch circuit, if supplied. Verify that abort functions occur according to design specifications. Confirm that visual and audible supervisory signals are received at the control panel.
- (5) Test all automatic valves, unless testing the valve will release agent or damage the valve (destructive testing).
- (6) Check pneumatic equipment, where required, for integrity to ensure proper operation.

7.7.2.5.3 Remote Monitoring Operations. The following testing of remote monitoring operations, if applicable, shall be performed:

- (1) Operate one of each type of input device while on standby power. Verify that an alarm signal is received at remote panel after device is operated. Reconnect primary power supply.
- (2) Operate each type of alarm condition on each signal circuit and verify receipt of trouble condition at the remote station.

7.7.2.5.4 Control Panel Primary Power Source. The following testing of the control panel primary power source shall be performed:

- (1) Verify that the control panel is connected to a dedicated circuit and labeled properly. This panel shall be readily accessible, yet restricted from unauthorized personnel.

- (2) Test a primary power failure in accordance with the manufacturer's specification with the system fully operated on standby power.

7.7.2.5.5 Return of System to Operational Condition. When all pre-discharge work is completed, each agent storage container shall be reconnected so that activation of the release circuit will release the agent. The system shall be returned to its fully operational design condition. The alarm-receiving office and all concerned personnel at the end-user's facility shall be notified that the fire system test is complete and that the system has been returned to full service condition.

7.8* Safety. Safe procedures shall be observed during installation, servicing, maintenance, testing, handling, and recharging of clean agent systems and agent containers.

Chapter 8 Marine Systems

8.1 General. This chapter outlines the deletions, modifications, and additions that are necessary for marine applications. All other requirements of NFPA 2001 shall apply to shipboard systems except as modified by this chapter. Where the provisions of Chapter 8 conflict with the provisions of Chapters 1 through 7, the provisions of Chapter 8 shall take precedence.

8.1.1 Scope. This chapter is limited to marine applications of clean agent fire extinguishing systems on commercial and government vessels. Explosion inerting systems were not considered during development of this chapter.

8.2 Use and Limitations.

8.2.1* Total flooding clean agent fire extinguishing systems shall be used primarily to protect hazards that are in enclosures or equipment that, in itself, includes an enclosure to contain the agent.

8.2.2* In addition to the limitations given in 1.4.2.2, clean agent fire extinguishing systems shall not be used to protect the following:

- (1) Dry cargo holds
- (2) Bulk cargo

8.2.3 The effects of agent decomposition products and combustion products on fire protection effectiveness and equipment shall be considered where using clean agents in hazards with high ambient temperatures (e.g., incinerator rooms, hot machinery and piping).

8.3 Hazards to Personnel.

8.3.1 Other than the engine rooms identified in 8.3.1.1, all other main machinery spaces shall be considered normally occupied spaces.

8.3.1.1 Engine rooms of 6000 ft³ (170 m³) or less that are accessed for maintenance only shall not be required to comply with 8.3.1.

8.3.2* For marine systems, electrical clearances shall be in accordance with 46 CFR, Subchapter J, "Electrical Engineering."

8.4 Agent Supply.

8.4.1 Reserve quantities of agent shall not be required by this standard.

8.4.2* Storage container arrangement shall be in accordance with 4.1.3.1, 4.1.3.3, 4.1.3.4, and 4.1.3.5. Where equipment is



subject to extreme weather conditions, the system shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's design and installation instructions.

8.4.2.1 Except in the case of systems with storage cylinders located within the protected space, pressure containers required for the storage of the agent shall be in accordance with 8.4.2.2.

8.4.2.2 When the agent containers are located outside a protected space, they shall be stored in a room that shall be situated in a safe and readily accessible location and shall be effectively ventilated so that the agent containers are not exposed to ambient temperatures in excess of 130°F (55°C). Common bulkheads and decks located between clean agent container storage rooms and protected spaces shall be protected with A-60 class structural insulation as defined by 46 CFR 72. Agent container storage rooms shall be accessible without having to pass through the space being protected. Access doors shall open outwards, and bulkheads and decks including doors and other means of closing any opening therein, which form the boundaries between such rooms and adjoining spaces, shall be gastight.

8.4.3 Where agent containers are stored in a dedicated space, doors at exits shall swing outward.

8.4.4 Where subject to moisture, containers shall be installed such that a space of at least 2 in. (51 mm) between the deck and the bottom of the container is provided.

8.4.5 In addition to the requirements of 4.1.3.4, containers shall be secured with a minimum of two brackets to prevent movement from vessel motion and vibration.

8.4.6* For marine applications, all piping, valves, and fittings of ferrous materials shall be protected inside and out against corrosion except as permitted in 8.4.6.1.

8.4.6.1 Closed sections of pipe, and valves and fittings within closed sections of pipe, shall only be required to be protected against corrosion on the outside.

8.4.6.2 Other than as permitted in 8.4.6.1, prior to acceptance testing, the inside of the piping shall be cleaned without compromising its corrosion resistance.

8.4.7* Pipes, fittings, nozzles, and hangers, including welding filling materials, within the protected space shall have a melting temperature greater than 1600°F (871°C). Aluminum components shall not be used.

8.4.8 Piping shall extend at least 2 in. (51 mm) beyond the last nozzle in each branch line to prevent clogging.

8.5 Detection, Actuation, and Control Systems.

8.5.1 General.

8.5.1.1 Detection, actuation, alarm, and control systems shall be installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

8.5.1.2* For spaces greater than 6000 ft³ (170 m³), automatic release of the fire extinguishing agent shall not be permitted where actuation of the system can interfere with the safe navigation of the vessel. Automatic release of the fire extinguishing agent shall be permitted for any space where actuation of the system will not interfere with the safe navigation of the vessel.

8.5.1.2.1 Automatic release shall be permitted for any space of 6000 ft³ (170 m³) or less.

8.5.2 Automatic Detection.

8.5.2.1 Electrical detection, signaling, control, and actuation system(s) shall have at least two sources of power. The primary source shall be from the vessel's emergency bus. For vessels with an emergency bus or battery, the backup source shall be either the vessel's general alarm battery or an internal battery within the system. Internal batteries shall be capable of operating the system for a minimum of 24 hours. All power sources shall be supervised.

8.5.2.1.1 For vessels without an emergency bus or battery, the primary source shall be permitted to be the main electrical supply.

8.5.2.2 In addition to the requirements set forth in 4.3.3.5, actuation circuits shall not be routed through the protected space where manual electrical actuation is used in marine systems.

8.5.2.2.1 For systems complying with 8.5.2.4, actuation circuits shall be permitted to be routed through the protected space.

8.5.2.3* Manual actuation for systems shall not be capable of being put into operation by any single action. Other than as identified in 8.5.2.3.1, manual actuation stations shall be housed in an enclosure.

8.5.2.3.1 Manual actuation shall be permitted to be local manual actuation at the cylinder(s) location.

8.5.2.4 Systems protecting spaces larger than 6000 ft³ (170 m³) shall have a manual actuation station located in the main egress route outside the protected space. In addition, systems protecting spaces larger than 6000 ft³ (170 m³) having cylinders within the protected space and systems protecting unattended main machinery spaces shall have an actuation station in a continuously monitored control station outside the protected space.

8.5.2.4.1 Systems protecting spaces of 6000 ft³ (170 m³) or less shall be permitted to have a single actuation station at either of the locations described in 8.5.2.4.

8.5.2.5 Emergency lighting shall be provided for remote actuation stations serving systems protecting main machinery spaces. All manual operating devices shall be labeled to identify the hazards they protect. In addition, the following information shall be provided:

- (1) Operating instructions
- (2) Length of time delay
- (3) Actions to take if system fails to operate
- (4) Other actions to take such as closing vents and taking a head count

8.5.2.5.1 For systems having cylinders within the protected space, a means of indicating system discharge shall be provided at the remote actuation station.

8.6 Additional Requirements for Systems Protecting Class B Hazards Greater than 6000 ft³ (170 m³) with Stored Cylinders Within the Protected Space.

8.6.1* An automatic fire detection system shall be installed in the protected space to provide early warning of fire to minimize potential damage to the fire extinguishing system before it can be manually actuated. The detection system shall initiate

audible and visual alarms in the protected space and on the navigating bridge upon detection of fire. All detection and alarm devices shall be electrically supervised for continuity, and trouble indication shall be annunciated on the navigating bridge.

8.6.2* Electrical power circuits connecting the containers shall be monitored for fault conditions and loss of power. Visual and audible alarms shall be provided to indicate this, and these shall be annunciated on the navigating bridge.

8.6.3* Within the protected space, electrical circuits essential for the release of the system shall be heat resistant, such as mineral-insulated cable compliant with Article 330 of NFPA 70, or equivalent. Piping systems essential for the release of systems designed to be operated hydraulically or pneumatically shall be of steel or other equivalent heat-resisting material.

8.6.4* The arrangements of containers and the electrical circuits and piping essential for the release of any system shall be such that in the event of damage to any one power release line through fire or explosion in a protected space (i.e., a single fault concept) the entire fire extinguishing charge required for that space can still be discharged.

8.6.5* The containers shall be monitored for decrease in pressure due to leakage and discharge. Visual and audible signals in the protected area and either on the navigating bridge or in the space where the fire control equipment is centralized shall be provided to indicate a low-pressure condition.

8.6.6* Within the protected space, electrical circuits essential for the release of the system shall be Class A rated in accordance with *NFPA 72*.

8.7 Enclosure.

8.7.1* To prevent loss of agent through openings to adjacent hazards or work areas, openings shall be one of the following designs:

- (1) Permanently sealed
- (2) Equipped with automatic closures
- (3) Equipped with manual closures outfitted with an alarm circuit to indicate when these closures are not sealed upon activation of the system

8.7.1.1 Where confinement of agent is not practical, or if the fuel can drain from one compartment to another, such as via a bilge, protection shall be extended to include the adjacent connected compartment or work areas.

8.7.2* Prior to agent discharge, all ventilating systems shall be closed and isolated to preclude passage of agent to other compartments or the vessel exterior. Automatic shutdowns or manual shutdowns capable of being closed by one person from a position co-located with the agent discharge station shall be used.

8.8 Design Concentration Requirements.

8.8.1 Combinations of Fuels. For combinations of fuels, the design concentration shall be derived from the flame extinguishment value for the fuel requiring the greatest concentration.

8.8.2 Design Concentration. For a particular fuel, the design concentration referred to in 8.8.3 shall be used.

8.8.3 Flame Extinguishment. The minimum design concentration for Class B flammable and combustible liquids shall be as determined following the procedures described in IMO MSC/Circular 848.

8.8.4* Total Flooding Quantity. The quantity of agent shall be based on the net volume of the space and shall be in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5 of IMO MSC/Circular 848 "Annex."

8.8.5* Duration of Protection. It is important that the agent design concentration not only shall be achieved, but also shall be maintained for a sufficient period of time to allow effective emergency action by trained ship's personnel. In no case shall the hold time be less than 15 minutes.

8.9 Distribution System.

8.9.1 Rate of Application. The minimum design rate of application shall be based on the quantity of agent required for the desired concentration and the time allowed to achieve the desired concentration.

8.9.2 Discharge Time.

8.9.2.1 The discharge time for halocarbon agents shall not exceed 10 seconds or as otherwise required by the authority having jurisdiction.

8.9.2.2 For halocarbon agents, the discharge time period shall be defined as the time required to discharge from the nozzles 95 percent of the agent mass [at 70°F (21°C)] necessary to achieve the minimum design concentration.

8.9.2.3 The discharge time for inert gas agents shall not exceed 120 seconds for 85 percent of the design concentration or as otherwise required by the authority having jurisdiction.

8.10 Nozzle Choice and Location. For spaces other than identified in 8.10.1, nozzles shall be of the type listed for the intended purpose. Limitations shall be determined based on testing in accordance with IMO MSC/Circular 848. Nozzle spacing, area coverage, height, and alignment shall not exceed the limitations.

8.10.1 For spaces having only Class A fuels, nozzle placement shall be in accordance with the nozzles' listed limitations.

8.11 Inspection and Tests. At least annually, all systems shall be thoroughly inspected and tested for proper operation by competent personnel. Discharge tests shall not be required.

8.11.1 An inspection report with recommendations shall be filed with the vessel's master and the owner's agent. The report shall be available for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction.

8.11.2 At least annually, the agent quantity of refillable containers shall be checked by competent personnel. The container pressure shall be verified and logged at least monthly by the vessel's crew.

8.11.3* For halocarbon clean agents, if a container shows a loss in agent of more than 5 percent or a loss in pressure, adjusted for temperature, of more than 10 percent, it shall be refilled or replaced.

8.11.3.1 For inert gas clean agents that are not liquefied, pressure is an indication of agent quantity. If an inert gas clean agent container shows a loss in pressure, adjusted for temperature, of more than 5 percent, it shall be refilled or replaced. Where container pressure gauges are used for this purpose, they shall be compared to a separate calibrated device at least annually.

8.11.4 The installing contractor shall provide instructions for the operational features and inspection procedures specific to the clean agent system installed on the vessel.



8.12 Approval of Installations. Prior to acceptance of the system, technical documentation such as the system design manual, test reports, or listing report shall be presented to the authority having jurisdiction. This documentation shall show that the system and its individual components are compatible, employed within tested limitations, and suitable for marine use.

8.12.1 The listing organization shall perform the following functions:

- (1) Verify that fire tests were conducted in accordance with predetermined standard
- (2) Verify that component tests were conducted in accordance with predetermined standard
- (3) Review the component quality assurance program
- (4) Review the design and installation manual
- (5) Identify system and component limitations
- (6) Verify flow calculations
- (7) Verify the integrity and the reliability of system as a whole
- (8) Have a follow-up program
- (9) Publish a list of equipment

8.13 Periodic Puff Testing. A test in accordance with 7.7.2.2.13 shall be performed at 24 month intervals. The periodic test program shall include a functional test of all alarms, controls, and time delays.

8.14 Compliance. Electrical systems shall be in accordance with 46 CFR Subchapter J, “Electrical Engineering.” For Canadian vessels, electrical installations shall be in accordance with TP 127.

Annex A Explanatory Material

Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A.1.4.1 The agents currently listed possess the physical properties as detailed in Table A.1.4.1(a) through Table A.1.4.1(d). This data will be revised from time to time as new information becomes available. Additional background information and data on these agents can be found in several references: Fernandez (1991), Hanauska (1991), Robin (1991), and Sheinson (1991).

A.1.4.1.2 The designations for perfluorocarbons (FCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), fluoriodocarbons (FICs), and fluoroketones (FKs) are an extension of halocarbon designations in ANSI/ASHRAE 34, prepared by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE). HCFC Blend A is a designation for a blend of HCFCs and a hydrocarbon. The designation IG-541 is used in this standard for a blend of three inert gases — nitrogen, argon, and carbon dioxide (52 percent, 40 percent, and 8 percent, respectively). The designation IG-01 is used in this standard for argon, an unblended inert gas. The designation IG-100 is used in this standard for nitrogen, an unblended inert gas. The designation IG-55 is used in this standard for a blend of two inert gases — nitrogen and argon (50 percent and 50 percent, respectively).

A.1.4.2 Clean agent fire extinguishing systems are useful within the limits of this standard for extinguishing fires in specific hazards or equipment and in occupancies where an elec-

trically nonconductive medium is essential or desirable, or where cleanup of other media presents a problem.

Total flooding clean agent fire extinguishing systems are used primarily to protect hazards that are in enclosures or equipment that, in itself, includes an enclosure to contain the agent. Some typical hazards that could be suitable include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Electrical and electronic hazards
- (2) Subfloors and other concealed spaces
- (3) Flammable and combustible liquids and gases
- (4) Other high-value assets
- (5) Telecommunications facilities

Clean agent systems could also be used for explosion prevention and suppression where flammable materials could collect in confined areas.

A.1.4.2.2 Electrostatic charging of ungrounded conductors could occur during the discharge of liquefied gases. These conductors could discharge to other objects, causing an electric arc of sufficient energy to initiate an explosion.

While an attractive feature of these agents is their suitability for use in environments containing energized electrical equipment without damaging that equipment, in some instances the electrical equipment could be the source of ignition. In such cases, the energized equipment should be de-energized prior to or during agent discharge.

A.1.4.2.4 The provision of an enclosure can create an unnecessary explosion hazard where otherwise only a fire hazard exists. A hazard analysis should be conducted to determine the relative merits of differing design concepts — for example, with and without enclosures — and the most relevant means of fire protection.

This provision provides consideration for using a clean agent in an environment that could result in an inordinate amount of products of decomposition (i.e., within an oven).

See NFPA 77.

A.1.5.1 Potential hazards to be considered for individual systems are the following:

- (1) *Noise.* Discharge of a system can cause noise loud enough to be startling but ordinarily insufficient to cause traumatic injury.
- (2) *Turbulence.* High-velocity discharge from nozzles could be sufficient to dislodge substantial objects directly in the path. System discharge can cause enough general turbulence in the enclosures to move unsecured paper and light objects.
- (3) *Cold Temperature.* Direct contact with the vaporizing liquid being discharged from a system will have a strong chilling effect on objects and can cause frostbite burns to the skin. The liquid phase vaporizes rapidly when mixed with air and thus limits the hazard to the immediate vicinity of the discharge point. In humid atmospheres, minor reduction in visibility can occur for a brief period due to the condensation of water vapor.

A.1.5.1.1 The discharge of clean agent systems to extinguish a fire could create a hazard to personnel from the natural form of the clean agent or from the products of decomposition that result from exposure of the agent to the fire or hot surfaces. Unnecessary exposure of personnel either to the natural agent or to the decomposition products should be avoided.

The SNAP Program was originally outlined in 59 CFR 13044.

Table A.1.4.1(a) Physical Properties of Clean Halocarbon Agents (U.S. Units)

Physical Property	Units	FIC-1311	FK-5-1-12	HCFC Blend A	HFC Blend B	HCFC-124	HFC-125	HFC-227ea	HFC-23	HFC-236fa
Molecular weight	N/A	195.9	316.04	92.9	99.4	136.5	120.0	170	70.01	152
Boiling point at 760 mm Hg	°F	-8.5	120.2	-37	-14.9	10.5	-54	2.4	-115.6	29.5
Freezing point	°F	-166	-162.4	161	-153.9	-326	-153	-204	-247.4	-153.4
Critical temperature	°F	252	335.6	256	219.9	252.5	150.8	214	79.1	256.9
Critical pressure	psi	586	270.44	964	588.9	527	525	424	700	464.1
Critical volume	ft ³ /lbm	0.0184	0.0251	0.028	0.031	0.0286	0.0279	0.0280	0.0304	0.02905
Critical density	lbm/ft ³	54.38	39.91	36	32.17	34.96	35.81	35.77	32.87	34.42
Specific heat, liquid at 77°F	Btu/lb °F	0.141	0.2634	0.3	0.339	0.271	0.354	0.281	0.987 at 68°F	0.3012
Specific heat, vapor at constant pressure (1 atm) and 77°F	Btu/lb °F	0.86	0.2127	0.16	0.203	0.18	0.19	0.193	0.175 at 68°F	0.201
Heat of vaporization at boiling point	Btu/lb	48.1	37.8	97	93.4	71.3	70.5	56.6	103	68.97
Thermal conductivity of liquid at 77°F	Btu/hr ft °F	0.04	0.034	0.052	0.0478	0.0395	0.0343	0.034	0.0305	0.0421
Viscosity, liquid at 77°F	lb/ft hr	0.473	1.27	0.508	0.485	0.622	0.338	0.579	0.107	0.6906
Relative dielectric strength at 1 atm at 734 mm Hg, 77°F (N ₂ = 1)	N/A	1.41	2.3	1.32	1.014	1.55	0.955 at 70°F	2	1.04	1.0166
Solubility of water in agent	wt%	0.01 at 70°F	<0.001 at 70°F	0.12 at 70°F	0.11 at 70°F	770 at 77°F	770 at 77°F	0.06 at 70°F	500 at 50°F	740 at 68°F

Table A.1.4.1(b) Physical Properties of Inert Gas Agents (U.S. Units)

Physical Property	Units	IG-01	IG-100	IG-541	IG-55
Molecular weight	N/A	39.9	28.0	34.0	33.95
Boiling point at 760 mm Hg	°F	-302.6	-320.4	-320	-310.2
Freezing point	°F	-308.9	-346.0	-109	-327.5
Critical temperature	°F	-188.1	-232.4	N/A	-210.5
Critical pressure	psia	711	492.9	N/A	602
Specific heat, vapor at constant pressure (1 atm) and 77°F	Btu/lb °F	0.125	0.445	0.195	0.187
Heat of vaporization at boiling point	Btu/lb	70.1	85.6	94.7	77.8
Relative dielectric strength at 1 atm at 734 mm Hg, 77°F (N ₂ = 1.0)	N/A	1.01	1.0	1.03	1.01
Solubility of water in agent at 77°F	N/A	0.006%	0.0013%	0.015%	0.006%



Table A.1.4.1(c) Physical Properties of Clean Halocarbon Agents (SI Units)

Physical Property	Units	FIC-131I	FK-5-1-12	HCFC Blend A	HFC Blend B	HCFC-124	HFC-125	HFC-227ea	HFC-23	HFC-236fa
Molecular weight	N/A	195.91	316.04	92.90	99.4	136.5	120	170	70.01	152
Boiling point at 760 mm Hg	°C	−22.5	49	−38.3	−26.1	−12.0	−48.1	−16.4	−82.1	−1.4
Freezing point	°C	−110	−108	<107.2	−103	−198.9	−102.8	−131	−155.2	−103
Critical temperature	°C	122	168.66	124.4	101.1	122.6	66	101.7	26.1	124.9
Critical pressure	kPa	4041	1865	6647	4060	3620	3618	2912	4828	3200
Critical volume	cc/mole	225	494.5	162	198	243	210	274	133	276*
Critical density	kg/m ³	871	639.1	577	515.3	560	574	621	527	551.3
Specific heat, liquid at 25°C	kJ/kg °C	0.592	1.103	1.256	1.44	1.153	1.407	1.184	4.130 at 20°C	1.264
Specific heat, vapor at constant pressure (1 atm) and 25°C	kJ/kg °C	0.3618	0.891	0.67	0.848	0.742	0.797	0.808	0.731 at 20°C	0.840
Heat of vaporization at boiling point	kJ/kg	112.4	88	225.6	217.2	165.9	164.1	132.6	239.3	160.4
Thermal conductivity of liquid at 25°C	W/m °C	0.07	0.059	0.09	0.082	0.0684	0.0592	0.069	0.0534	0.0729
Viscosity, liquid at 25°C	centipoise	0.196	0.524	0.21	0.202	0.257	0.14	0.184	0.044	0.286
Relative dielectric strength at 1 atm at 734 mm Hg, 25°C (N ₂ = 1.0)	N/A	1.41	2.3	1.32	1.014	1.55	0.955 at 21°C	2	1.04	1.0166
Solubility of water in agent	ppm	1.0062% by weight	<0.001	0.12% by weight	0.11% by weight	700 at 25°C	700 at 25°C	0.06% by weight	500 at 10°C	740 at 20°C

Table A.1.4.1(d) Physical Properties of Inert Gas Agents (SI Units)

Physical Property	Units	IG-01	IG-100	IG-541	IG-55
Molecular weight	N/A	39.9	28.0	34.0	33.95
Boiling point at 760 mm Hg	°C	−189.85	−195.8	−196	−190.1
Freezing point	°C	−189.35	−210.0	−78.5	−199.7
Critical temperature	°C	−122.3	−146.9	N/A	−134.7
Critical pressure	kPa	4,903	3,399	N/A	4,150
Specific heat, vapor at constant pressure (1 atm) and 25°C	kJ/kg °C	0.519	1.04	0.574	0.782
Heat of vaporization at boiling point	kJ/kg	163	199	220	181
Relative dielectric strength at 1 atm at 734 mm Hg, 25°C (N ₂ = 1.0)	N/A	1.01	1.0	1.03	1.01
Solubility of water in agent at 25°C	N/A	0.006%	0.0013%	0.015%	0.006%

A.1.5.1.2 Table A.1.5.1.2(a) provides information on the toxicological effects of halocarbon agents covered by this standard. The NOAEL is the highest concentration at which no adverse physiological or toxicological effect has been observed. The LOAEL is the lowest concentration at which an adverse physiological or toxicological effect has been observed.

An appropriate protocol measures the effect in a stepwise manner such that the interval between the LOAEL and NOAEL is sufficiently small to be acceptable to the competent regulatory authority. The EPA includes in its SNAP evaluation this aspect (of the rigor) of the test protocol.

Table A.1.5.1.2(a) Toxicity Information for Halocarbon Clean Agents

Agent	LC ₅₀ or ALC (%)	NOAEL (%)	LOAEL (%)
FIC-131I	>12.8	0.2	0.4
FK-5-1-12	>10.0	10	>10.0
HCFC	64	10	>10.0
Blend A			
HCFC-124	23–29	1	2.5
HFC-125	>70	7.5	10
HFC-227ea	>80	9	10.5
HFC-23	>65	30	>30
HFC-236fa	>45.7	10	15
HFC Blend B	56.7*	5.0*	7.5*

Notes:

(1) LC₅₀ is the concentration lethal to 50 percent of a rat population during a 4 hour exposure. The ALC is the approximate lethal concentration.

(2) The cardiac sensitization levels are based on the observation or non-observance of serious heart arrhythmias in a dog. The usual protocol is a 5 minute exposure followed by a challenge with epinephrine.

(3) High concentration values are determined with the addition of oxygen to prevent asphyxiation.

*These values are for the largest component of the blend (HFCB 134A).

For halocarbons covered in this standard, the NOAEL and LOAEL are based on the toxicological effect known as cardiac sensitization. Cardiac sensitization occurs when a chemical causes an increased sensitivity of the heart to adrenaline, a naturally occurring substance produced by the body during times of stress, leading to the sudden onset of irregular heart beats and possibly heart attack. Cardiac sensitization is measured in dogs after they have been exposed to a halocarbon agent for 5 minutes. At the 5 minute time period, an external dose of adrenaline (epinephrine) is administered and an effect is recorded, if the dog experiences cardiac sensitization. The cardiac sensitization potential as measured in dogs is a highly conservative indicator of the potential in humans. The conservative nature of the cardiac sensitization test stems from several factors; the two most pertinent are as follows:

- (1) Very high doses of adrenaline are given to the dogs during the testing procedure (doses are more than 10 times higher than the highest levels secreted by humans under maximum stress).
- (2) Four to ten times more halocarbon is required to cause cardiac sensitization in the absence of externally administered adrenaline, even in artificially created situations of stress or fright in the dog test.

Because the cardiac sensitization potential is measured in dogs, a means of providing human relevance to the concentration at which this cardiac sensitization occurs (LOAEL) has been established through the use of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling.

A PBPK model is a computerized tool that describes time-related aspects of a chemical's distribution in a biological system. The PBPK model mathematically describes the uptake of the halocarbon into the body and the subsequent distribution of the halocarbon to the areas of the body where adverse effects can occur. For example, the model describes the breathing rate and uptake of the halocarbon from the exposure atmosphere into the lungs. From there, the model uses the blood flow bathing the lungs to describe the movement of the halocarbon from the lung space into the arterial blood that directly feeds the heart and vital organs of the body.

It is the ability of the model to describe the halocarbon concentration in human arterial blood that provides its primary utility in relating the dog cardiac sensitization test results to a human who is unintentionally exposed to the halocarbon. The concentration of halocarbon in the dog arterial blood at the time the cardiac sensitization event occurs (5 minute exposure) is the critical arterial blood concentration, and this blood parameter is the link to the human system. Once this critical arterial blood concentration has been measured in dogs, the EPA-approved PBPK model simulates how long it will take the human arterial blood concentration to reach the critical arterial blood concentration (as determined in the dog test) during human inhalation of any particular concentration of the halocarbon agent. As long as the simulated human arterial concentration remains below the critical arterial blood concentration, the exposure is considered safe. Inhaled halocarbon concentrations that produce human arterial blood concentrations equal to or greater than the critical arterial blood concentration are considered unsafe because they represent inhaled concentrations that potentially yield arterial blood concentrations where cardiac sensitization events occur in the dog test. Using these critical arterial blood concentrations of halocarbons as the ceiling for allowable human arterial concentrations, any number of halocarbon exposure scenarios can be evaluated using this modeling approach.

For example, in the dog cardiac sensitization test on Halon 1301, a measured dog arterial blood concentration of 25.7 mg/L is measured at the effect concentration (LOAEL) of 7.5 percent after a 5 minute exposure to Halon 1301 and an external intravenous adrenaline injection. The PBPK model predicts the time at which the human arterial blood concentration reaches 25.7 mg/L for given inhaled Halon 1301 concentrations. Using this approach the model also predicts that at some inhaled halocarbon concentrations, the critical arterial blood concentration is never reached, and thus, cardiac sensitization will not occur. Accordingly, in the tables in 1.5.1.2.1, the time is arbitrarily truncated at 5 minutes, because the dogs were exposed for 5 minutes in the original cardiac sensitization testing protocols.

The time value, estimated by the EPA-approved and peer-reviewed PBPK model or its equivalent, is that required for the human arterial blood level for a given halocarbon to equal the arterial blood level of a dog exposed to the LOAEL for 5 minutes.

For example, if a system is designed to achieve a maximum concentration of 12.0 percent HFC-125, then means should be provided such that personnel are exposed for no longer than 1.67 minutes. Examples of suitable exposure limiting



mechanisms include self-contained breathing apparatuses and planned and rehearsed evacuation routes.

The requirement for pre-discharge alarms and time delays is intended to prevent human exposure to agents during fire fighting. However, in the unlikely circumstance that an accidental discharge occurs, restrictions on the use of certain halocarbon agents covered in this standard are based on the availability of PBPK modeling information. For those halocarbon agents in which modeling information is available, means should be provided to limit the exposure to those concentrations and times specified in the tables in 1.5.1.2.1. The concentrations and times given in the tables are those that have been predicted to limit the human arterial blood concentration to below the critical arterial blood concentration associated with cardiac sensitization. For halocarbon agents where the needed data are unavailable, the agents are restricted based on whether the protected space is normally occupied or unoccupied, and how quickly egress from the area can be effected. Normally occupied areas are those intended for human occupancy. Normally unoccupied areas are those in which personnel can be present from time to time. Therefore, a comparison of the cardiac sensitization values to the intended design concentration would determine the suitability of a halocarbon for use in normally occupied or unoccupied areas.

Clearly, longer exposure of the agent to high temperatures would produce greater concentrations of these gases. The type and sensitivity of detection, coupled with the rate of discharge, should be selected to minimize the exposure time of the agent to the elevated temperature if the concentration of the breakdown products must be minimized. In most cases the area would be untenable for human occupancy due to the heat and breakdown products of the fire itself.

These decomposition products have a sharp, acrid odor, even in minute concentrations of only a few parts per million. This characteristic provides a built-in warning system for the agent, but at the same time creates a noxious, irritating atmosphere for those who must enter the hazard following a fire.

Background and Toxicology of Hydrogen Fluoride.

Hydrogen fluoride (HF) vapor can be produced in fires as a breakdown product of fluorocarbon fire extinguishing agents and in the combustion of fluoropolymers.

The significant toxicological effects of HF exposure occur at the site of contact. By the inhalation route, significant deposition is predicted to occur in the most anterior (front part) region of the nose and extending back to the lower respiratory tract (airways and lungs) if sufficient exposure concentrations are achieved. The damage induced at the site of contact with HF is characterized by extensive tissue damage and cell death (necrosis) with inflammation. One day after a single, 1 hour exposure of rats to HF concentrations of 950 ppm to 2600 ppm, tissue injury was limited exclusively to the anterior section of the nose (DuPont, 1990). No effects were seen in the trachea or lungs.

At high concentrations of HF (about 200 ppm), human breathing patterns would be expected to change primarily from nose breathing to primarily mouth breathing. This change in breathing pattern determines the deposition pattern of HF into the respiratory tract, either upper respiratory tract (nose breathing) or lower respiratory tract (mouth breathing). In studies conducted by Dalby (Dalby, 1996), rats were exposed by nose-only or mouth-only breathing. In the mouth-breathing only model, rats were exposed to various concentrations of HF through a tube placed in the trachea, thereby bypassing the upper respiratory tract. This exposure method is considered to be a conservative approach for estimating a “worst case” exposure in which a per-

son would not breathe through the nose but inhale through the mouth, thereby maximizing the deposition of HF into the lower respiratory tract.

In the nose-breathing model, 2 minute or 10 minute exposures of rats to about 6400 or 1700 ppm, respectively, produced similar effects; that is, no mortality resulted but significant cell damage in the nose was observed. In contrast, marked differences in toxicity were evident in the mouth-breathing model. Indeed, mortality was evident following a 10 minute exposure to a concentration of about 1800 ppm and a 2 minute exposure to about 8600 ppm. Significant inflammation of the lower respiratory tract was also evident. Similarly, a 2 minute exposure to about 4900 ppm produced mortality and significant nasal damage. However, at lower concentrations (950 ppm) following a 10 minute exposure or 1600 ppm following a 2 minute exposure, no mortality and only minimal irritation were observed.

Numerous other toxicology studies have been conducted in experimental animals for longer durations, such as 15, 30, or 60 minutes. In nearly all of these studies, the effects of HF were generally similar across all species; that is, severe irritation of the respiratory tract was observed as the concentration of HF was increased.

In humans, an irritation threshold appears to be at about 3 ppm, where irritation of the upper airways and eyes occurs. In prolonged exposure at about 5 ppm, redness of the skin has also resulted. In controlled human exposure studies, humans are reported to have tolerated mild nasal irritation (subjective response) at 32 ppm for several minutes (Machle et al., 1934). Exposure of humans to about 3 ppm for an hour produced slight eye and upper respiratory tract irritation. Even with an increase in exposure concentration (up to 122 ppm) and a decrease in exposure duration to about 1 minute, skin, eye, and respiratory tract irritation occurs (Machle and Kitzmiller, 1935).

Meldrum (Meldrum, 1993) proposed the concept of the dangerous toxic load (DTL) as a means of predicting the effects of, for example, HF in humans. Meldrum developed the argument that the toxic effects of certain chemicals tend to follow Haber's law:

$$C \times t = k$$

where:

C = concentration

t = time

k = constant

The available data on the human response to inhalation of HF were considered insufficient to provide a basis for establishing a DTL. Therefore, it was necessary to use the available animal lethality data to establish a model for the response in humans. The DTL is based on an estimate of 1 percent lethality in an exposed population of animals. Based on the analysis of animal lethality data, the author determined that the DTL for HF is 12,000 ppm/min. Although this approach appears reasonable and consistent with mortality data in experimental animals, the predictive nature of this relationship for nonlethal effects in humans has not been demonstrated.

Potential Human Health Effects and Risk Analysis in Fire Scenarios.

It is important for a risk analysis to distinguish between normally healthy individuals, such as fire fighters, and those with compromised health. Exposure to higher concentrations of HF would be expected to be tolerated more in healthy individuals, whereas equal concentrations can have escape-impairing effects in those with compromised health. The following discussion

assumes that the effects described at the various concentrations and durations are for the healthy individual.

Inflammation (irritation) of tissues represents a continuum from “no irritation” to “severe, deep penetrating” irritation. Use of terms *slight*, *mild*, *moderate*, and *severe* in conjunction with irritation represents an attempt to quantify this effect. However, given the large variability and sensitivity of the human population, differences in the degree of irritation from exposure to HF are expected to occur. For example, some individuals can experience mild irritation to a concentration that results in moderate irritation in another individual.

At concentrations of <50 ppm for up to 10 minutes, irritation of upper respiratory tract and the eyes would be expected to occur. At these low concentrations, escape-impairing effects would not be expected in the healthy individual. As HF concentrations increase to 50 ppm to 100 ppm, an increase in irritation is expected. For short duration (10 to 30 minutes) irritation of the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract would occur. At 100 ppm for 30 to 60 minutes, escape-impairing effects would begin to occur, and continued exposure at 200 ppm and greater for an hour could be lethal in the absence of medical intervention. As the concentration of HF increases, the severity of irritation increases, and the potential for delayed systemic effects also increases. At about 100 to 200 ppm of HF, humans would also be expected to shift their breathing pattern to mouth breathing. Therefore, deeper lung irritation is expected. At greater concentrations (>200 ppm), respiratory discomfort, pulmonary (deep lung) irritation, and systemic effects are possible. Continued exposure at these higher concentrations can be lethal in the absence of medical treatment.

Generation of HF from fluorocarbon fire extinguishing agents represents a potential hazard. In the foregoing discussion, the duration of exposure was indicated for 10 to 60 minutes. In fire conditions in which HF would be generated, the actual exposure duration would be expected to be less than 10 minutes and in most cases less than 5 minutes. As Dalby (Dalby, 1996) showed, exposing mouth breathing rats to HF concentrations of about 600 ppm for 2 minutes was without effect. Similarly, exposing mouth breathing rats to a HF concentration of about 300 ppm for 10 minutes did not result in any mortality or respiratory effects. Therefore, one could surmise that humans exposed to similar concentrations for less than 10 minutes would be able to survive such concentrations. However, caution needs to be employed in interpreting these data. Although the toxicity data would suggest that humans could survive these large concentrations for less than 10 minutes, those individuals with compromised lung function or those with cardiopulmonary disease can be more susceptible to the effects of HF. Furthermore, even in the healthy individual, irritation of the upper respiratory tract and eyes would be expected, and escape could be impaired.

Table A.1.5.1.2(b) provides potential human health effects of hydrogen fluoride in healthy individuals.

Occupational exposure limits have been established for HF. The limit set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), the Threshold Limit Value (TLV[®]), represents exposure of normally healthy workers for an 8 hour workday or 40 hour workweek. For HF, the limit established is 3 ppm, which represents a ceiling limit; that is, the airborne concentration that should not be exceeded at any time during the workday. This limit is intended to prevent irritation and possible systemic effects with repeated, long-term exposure. This and similar time-weighted average limits are not considered relevant for fire extinguishing use of fluorocarbons during emergency situations. However, these limits may need to be considered in

clean-up procedures where high levels of HF were generated. For more information, contact the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240, (513) 742-2020.

In contrast to the ACGIH TLV, the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) represents limits established for emergency release of chemicals. These limits are established to also account for sensitive populations, such as those with compromised health. The ERPG limits are designed to assist emergency response personnel in planning for catastrophic releases of chemicals. These limits are not developed to be used as “safe” limits for routine operations. However, in the case of

Table A.1.5.1.2(b) Potential Human Health Effects of Hydrogen Fluoride in Healthy Individuals

Exposure Time	Hydrogen Fluoride (ppm)	Reaction
2 minutes	<50	Slight eye and nasal irritation
	50–100	Mild eye and upper respiratory tract irritation
	100–200	Moderate eye and upper respiratory tract irritation; slight skin irritation
	>200	Moderate irritation of all body surfaces; increasing concentration may be escape impairing
5 minutes	<50	Mild eye and nasal irritation
	50–100	Increasing eye and nasal irritation; slight skin irritation
	100–200	Moderate irritation of skin, eyes, and respiratory tract
	>200	Definite irritation of tissue surfaces; will cause escape impairing at increasing concentrations
10 minutes	<50	Definite eye, skin, and upper respiratory tract irritation
	50–100	Moderate irritation of all body surfaces
	100–200	Moderate irritation of all body surfaces; escape-impairing effects likely
	>200	Escape-impairing effects will occur; increasing concentrations can be lethal without medical intervention



fire extinguishing use and generation of HF, these limits are more relevant than time-weighted average limits such as the TLV. The ERPG limits consist of three levels for use in emergency planning and are typically 1 hour values; 10 minute values have also been established for HF. For the 1 hour limits, the ERPG 1 (2 ppm) is based on odor perception and is below the concentration at which mild sensory irritation has been reported (3 ppm). ERPG 2 (20 ppm) is the most important guideline value set and is the concentration at which mitigating steps should be taken, such as evacuation, sheltering, and donning masks. This level should not impede escape or cause irreversible health effects and is based mainly on the human irritation data obtained by Machle et al. (Machle et al., 1934) and Largent (Largent, 1960). ERPG 3 (50 ppm) is based on animal data and is the maximum nonlethal level for nearly all individuals. This level could be lethal to some susceptible people. The 10 minute values established for HF and used in emergency planning in fires where HF vapor is generated are ERPG 3 = 170 ppm, ERPG 2 = 50 ppm, and ERPG 1 = 2 ppm. For more information, contact the American Industrial Hygiene Association, 2700 Prosperity Ave., Suite 250, Fairfax, VA 22031, (703) 849-8888, fax (703) 207-3561.

A.1.5.1.2.1 One objective of pre-discharge alarms and time delays is to prevent human exposure to agents.

A.1.5.1.3 Paragraph 1.5.1.3 makes reference to limiting concentrations of inert gas agents corresponding to certain values of “sea level equivalent” of oxygen. The mean atmospheric pressure of air at sea level is 760 mm Hg. Atmospheric air is 21 volume percent oxygen. The partial pressures of oxygen in ambient air and air diluted agent to the limiting sea level concentrations corresponding to permissible exposure times of 5, 3, and ½ minutes are given in Table A.1.5.1.3(a).

Table A.1.5.1.3(a) Oxygen Partial Pressure at Sea Level* Corresponding to Exposure Limits of 1.5.1.3

Exposure Time (min)	Agent Concentration (vol %)	O ₂ % at Sea Level	Partial Pressure O ₂ (mm Hg)
Air reference	0%	21%	159.6
5	43%	12.0%	91.0
3	52%	10.1%	76.6
½	62%	8.0%	60.6

*Mean atmospheric pressure at sea level is 760 mm Hg.

In 3.3.28, *sea level equivalent of oxygen* is defined in terms of the partial pressure at sea level. The mean atmospheric pressure decreases with increasing altitude as shown in Table 5.5.3.3. The partial pressure of oxygen is 21 percent of the atmospheric pressure. The concentration of added agent, which dilutes air to the sea level limiting partial pressure of oxygen, is given by

$$\text{Vol. \% agent} = \left(\frac{0.21P_{\text{ATM}} - P_{\text{O}_2, \text{LIM}}}{0.21P_{\text{ATM}}} \right) \times 100$$

where:

P_{ATM} = local mean atmospheric pressure
 $P_{\text{O}_2, \text{LIM}}$ = limiting partial pressure of oxygen corresponding to a sea level exposure time limit

The effect of altitude on limiting agent concentrations is given in Table A.1.5.1.3(b).

Table A.1.5.1.3(c) provides information on physiological effects of inert gas agents covered by this standard. The health concern for inert gas clean agents is asphyxiation due to the lowered oxygen levels. With inert gas agents, an oxygen concentration of no less than 10 percent (sea level equivalent) is required for normally occupied areas. This corresponds to an agent concentration of no more than 52 percent.

IG-541 uses carbon dioxide to promote breathing characteristics intended to sustain life in the oxygen-deficient environment for protection of personnel. Care should be used not to design inert gas-type systems for normally occupied areas using design concentrations higher than that specified in the system manufacturer's listed design manual for the hazard being protected.

Inert gas agents do not decompose measurably in extinguishing a fire. As such, toxic or corrosive decomposition products are not found. However, heat and breakdown products of the fire itself can still be substantial and could make the area untenable for human occupancy.

A.1.5.1.4.1 The steps and safeguards necessary to prevent injury or death to personnel in areas whose atmospheres will be made hazardous by the discharge or thermal decomposition of clean agents can include the following:

- (1) Provision of adequate aiseways and routes of exit, and procedures to keep them clear at all times.
- (2) Provision of emergency lighting and directional signs as necessary to ensure quick, safe evacuation.
- (3) Provision of alarms within such areas that will operate immediately upon detection of the fire.
- (4) Provision of only outward-swinging, self-closing doors at exits from hazardous areas and, where such doors are latched, provision of panic hardware.
- (5) Provision of continuous alarms at entrances to such areas until the atmosphere has been restored to normal.
- (6) Provision of warning and instruction signs at entrances to and inside such areas. These signs should inform persons in or entering the protected area that a clean agent system is installed and should contain additional instructions pertinent to the conditions of the hazard.
- (7) Provision for the prompt discovery and rescue of persons rendered unconscious in such areas. This should be accomplished by having such areas searched immediately by trained personnel equipped with proper breathing equipment. Self-contained breathing equipment and personnel trained in its use and in rescue practices, including artificial respiration, should be readily available.
- (8) Provision of instruction and drills for all personnel within or in the vicinity of such areas, including maintenance or construction people who could be brought into the area, to ensure their correct action when a clean agent system operates.
- (9) Provision of means for prompt ventilation of such areas. Forced ventilation will often be necessary. Care should be taken to readily dissipate hazardous atmospheres and not merely move them to another location.
- (10) Prohibition against smoking by persons until the atmosphere has been determined to be free of the clean agent.
- (11) Provision of such other steps and safeguards that a careful study of each particular situation indicates is necessary to prevent injury or death.

A.1.5.1.4.2 A certain amount of leakage from a protected space to adjacent areas is anticipated during and following agent discharge. Consideration should be given to agent concentration (when above NOAEL), decomposition products,

Table A.1.5.1.3(b) Relationship of Altitude to Atmospheric Pressure, Oxygen Partial Pressure in Air, and Limiting Agent Concentration

Altitude Above Sea Level (ft)	P_{ATM} (mm Hg)	O_2 Partial Pressure in Air (mm Hg)	Limiting Agent Concentration		
			5 min Exposure $P(O_2) = 91$ (mm Hg)	3 min Exposure $P(O_2) = 76.6$ (mm Hg)	30 sec Exposure $P(O_2) = 60.6$ (mm Hg)
-3,000	840	176.4	48.4%	56.6%	65.6%
-2,000	812	170.5	46.6%	55.1%	64.5%
-1,000	787	165.3	44.9%	53.7%	63.3%
0	760	159.6	43.0%	52.0%	62.0%
1,000	733	153.9	40.9%	50.2%	60.6%
2,000	705	148.1	38.5%	48.3%	59.1%
3,000	679	142.6	36.2%	46.3%	57.5%
4,000	650	136.5	33.3%	43.9%	55.6%
5,000	622	130.6	30.3%	41.4%	53.6%
6,000	596	125.2	27.3%	38.8%	51.6%
7,000	570	119.7	24.0%	36.0%	49.4%
8,000	550	115.5	21.2%	33.7%	47.5%
9,000	528	110.9	17.9%	30.9%	45.3%
10,000	505	106.1	14.2%	27.8%	42.9%

Table A.1.5.1.3(c) Physiological Effects of Inert Gas Agents

Agent	No Effect Level* (%)	Low Effect Level* (%)
IG-01	43	52
IG-100	43	52
IG-55	43	52
IG-541	43	52

*Based on physiological effects in humans in hypoxic atmospheres. These values are the functional equivalents of NOAEL and LOAEL values and correspond to 12 percent minimum oxygen for the no effect level and 10 percent minimum oxygen for the low effect level.

products of combustion, and relative size of adjacent spaces. Additional consideration should be given to exhaust paths when opening or venting the enclosure after a discharge.

A.1.5.1.4.4 Inert gases used to operate pre-discharge alarms include inert gas clean agents, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide.

A.1.6 Many factors impact the environmental acceptability of a fire suppression agent. Uncontrolled fires pose significant impact by themselves. All extinguishing agents should be used in ways that eliminate or minimize the potential environmental impact. General guidelines to be followed to minimize this impact include the following:

- (1) Do not perform unnecessary discharge testing.
- (2) Consider the ozone depletion and global warming impact of the agent under consideration and weigh these impacts against the fire safety concerns.
- (3) Recycle all agents where possible.
- (4) Consult the most recent environmental regulations on each agent.

The unnecessary emission of clean extinguishing agents with either the potential of ozone depletion or the potential of global warming, or the potential of both, should be avoided. All phases of design, installation, testing, and maintenance of

systems using these agents should be performed with the goal of no emission into the environment.

A.1.8.1 It is generally believed that, because of the highly stable nature of the compounds that are derived from the families including halogenated hydrocarbons and inert gases, incompatibility will not be a problem. These materials tend to behave in a similar fashion, and, as far as is known, the reactions that could occur as the result of mixing of these materials within the container is not thought to be a real consideration with regard to their application to a fire protection hazard.

It is clearly not the intent of this section to deal with compatibility of the agents with components of the extinguishing hardware, nor to deal with the subject of storability or storage life of individual agents or mixtures of those agents. Each of these concerns is addressed elsewhere in this standard.

A.3.2.1 Approved. The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

A.3.2.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The phrase "authority having jurisdiction," or its acronym AHJ, is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory



authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

A.3.2.3 Listed. The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation; some organizations do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The authority having jurisdiction should utilize the system employed by the listing organization to identify a listed product.

A.3.3.13 Halocarbon Agent. Examples are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs or FCs), fluoriodocarbons (FICs), and fluoroketones (FKs).

A.3.3.22 Normally Occupied Enclosure or Space. Spaces occasionally visited by personnel, such as transformer bays, switch houses, pump rooms, vaults, engine test stands, cable trays, tunnels, microwave relay stations, flammable liquid storage areas, and enclosed energy systems are examples of areas considered not normally occupied.

A.4.1.1.2 An extra-full complement of charged cylinders (connected reserve) manifolded and piped to feed into the automatic system should be considered on all installations. The reserve supply is normally actuated by manual operation of the main/reserve switch on either electrically operated or pneumatically operated systems. A connected reserve is desirable for the following reasons:

- (1) Provides protection should a reflash occur
- (2) Provides reliability should the main bank malfunction
- (3) Provides protection during impaired protection when main tanks are being replaced
- (4) Provides protection of other hazards if selector valves are involved and multiple hazards are protected by the same set of cylinders

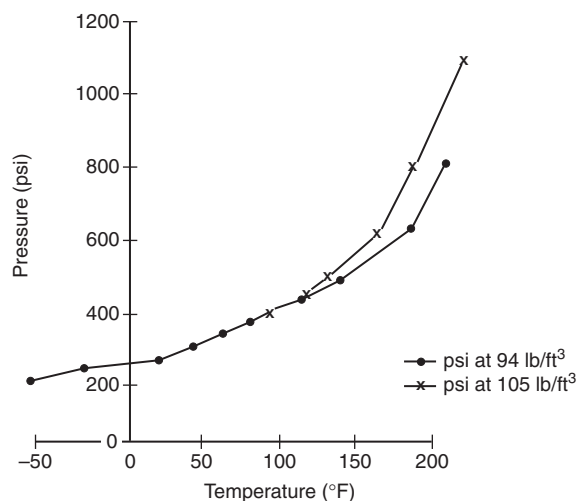
If a full complement of charged cylinders cannot be obtained or if the empty cylinder cannot be recharged, delivered, and reinstalled within 24 hours, a third complement of fully charged, nonconnected spare cylinders should be considered and made available on the premises for emergency use. The need for spare cylinders could depend on whether or not the hazard is under the protection of automatic sprinklers.

A.4.1.2 The normal and accepted procedures for making these quality measurements will be provided by the chemical manufacturers in a future submittal. As each clean agent varies in its quality characteristics, a more comprehensive table than the one currently in the standard will be developed. It will be submitted through the public proposal process. Recovered or recycled agents are currently not available, and thus quality standards do not exist at this time. As data become available, these criteria will be developed.

A.4.1.3.2 Storage containers should not be exposed to a fire in a manner likely to impair system performance.

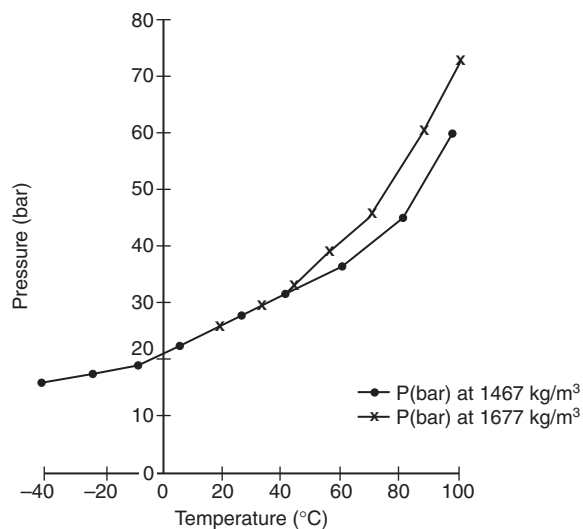
A.4.1.4.1 Containers used for agent storage should be fit for the purpose. Materials of construction of the container, closures, gaskets, and other components should be compatible with the agent and designed for the anticipated pressures. Each container is equipped with a pressure relief device to protect against excessive pressure conditions.

The variations in vapor pressure with temperature for the various clean agents are shown in Figure A.4.1.4.1 (a) through Figure A.4.1.4.1 (m).



Note: CF3I pressure versus temperature at 94 and 105 lb/ft³.

(1) U.S. (°F)



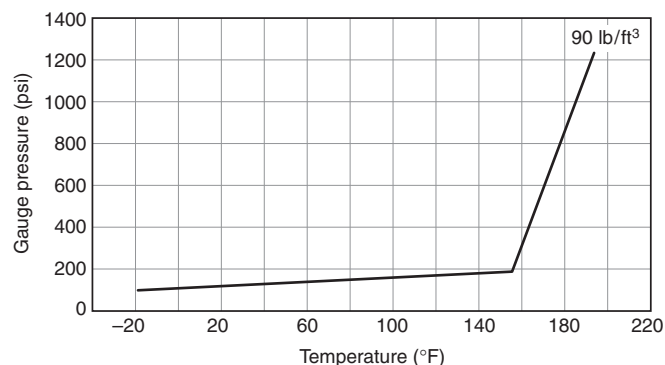
Note: CF3I pressure versus temperature at 1467 and 1677 kg/m³.

(2) SI (°C)

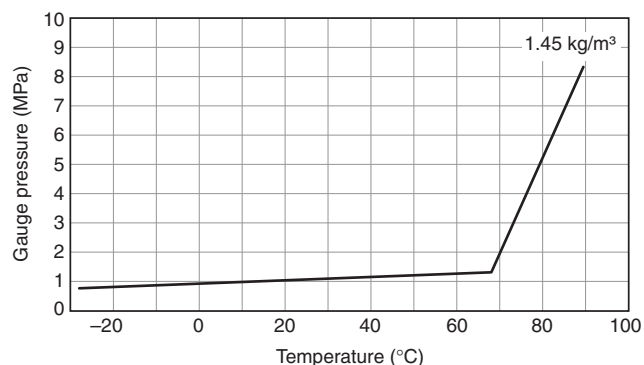
FIGURE A.4.1.4.1(a) Isometric Diagram of FIC-131I.

For halocarbon clean agents, the pressure in the container is significantly affected by fill density and temperature. At elevated temperatures, the rate of increase in pressure is very sensitive to fill density. If the maximum fill density is exceeded, the pressure will increase rapidly with temperature increase so as to present a hazard to personnel and property. Therefore, it is very important that the maximum fill density limit specified for each liquefied clean agent not be exceeded. Adherence to

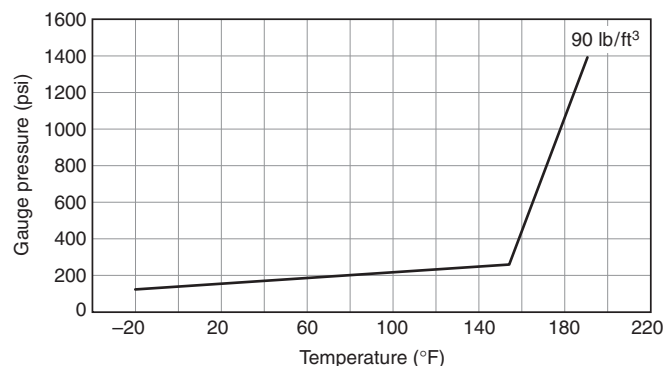
the limits for fill density and pressurization levels specified in Table A.4.1.4.1 should prevent excessively high pressures from occurring if the agent container is exposed to elevated temperatures. Adherence to the limits will also minimize the possibility of an inadvertent discharge of agent through the pressure relief device. The manufacturer should be consulted for superpressurization levels other than those shown in Table A.4.1.4.1.



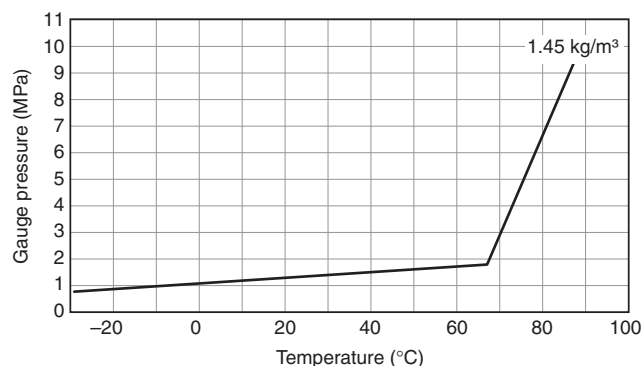
(1) For 150 psi containers



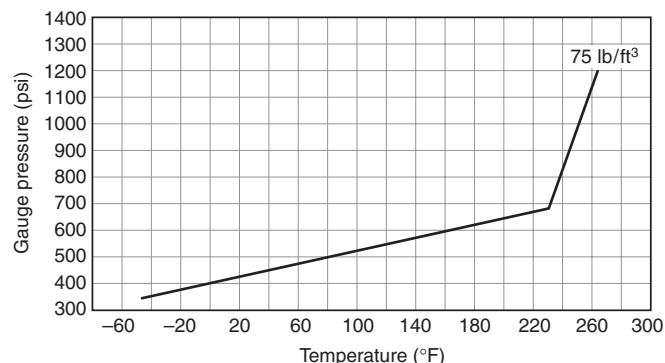
(2) For 1.0 MPa containers



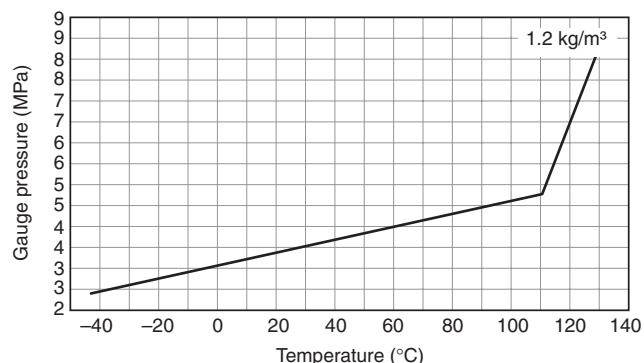
(3) For 195 psi containers



(4) For 1.3 MPa containers



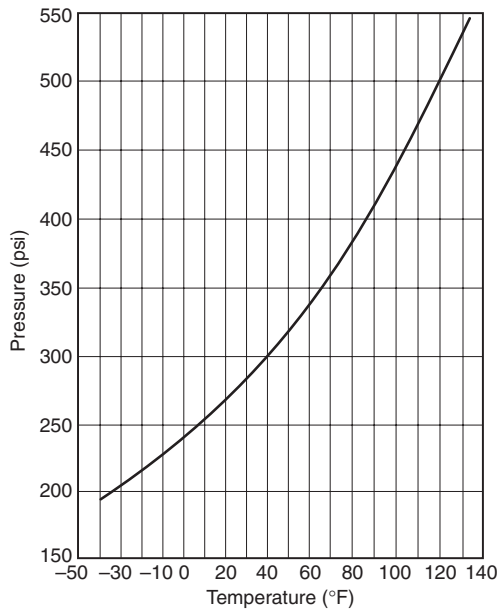
(5) For 500 psi containers



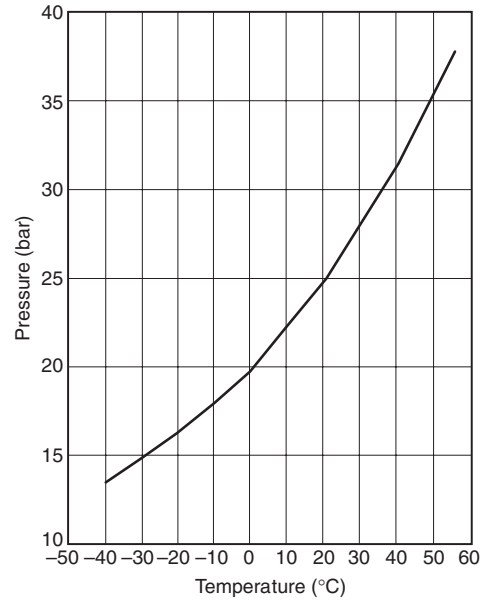
(6) For 3.4 MPa containers

FIGURE A.4.1.4.1(b) Isometric Diagram of FK-5-1-12.





(1) U.S. (°F)



(2) SI (°C)

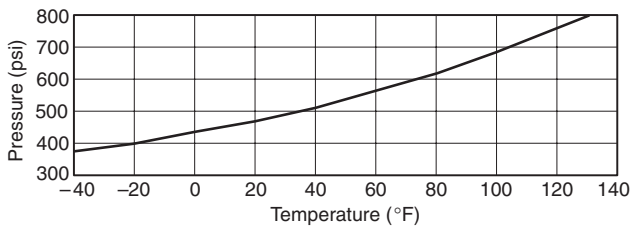
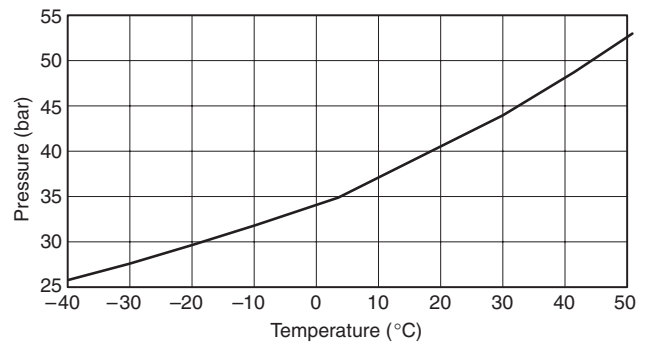
(3) Pressurized with nitrogen to 600 psi at 70°F for fill densities of 31.2 to 56.2 lb/ft³(4) Pressurized with nitrogen to 40 bar at 20°C for fill densities of 0.5 to 0.9 kg/m³

FIGURE A.4.1.4.1(c) Isometric Diagram of HCFC Blend A.

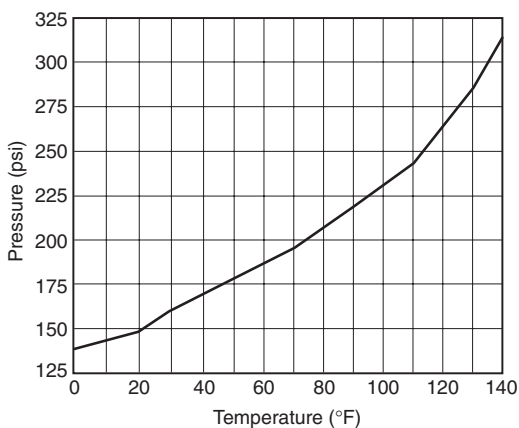
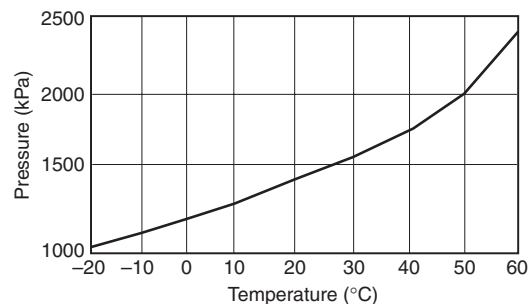
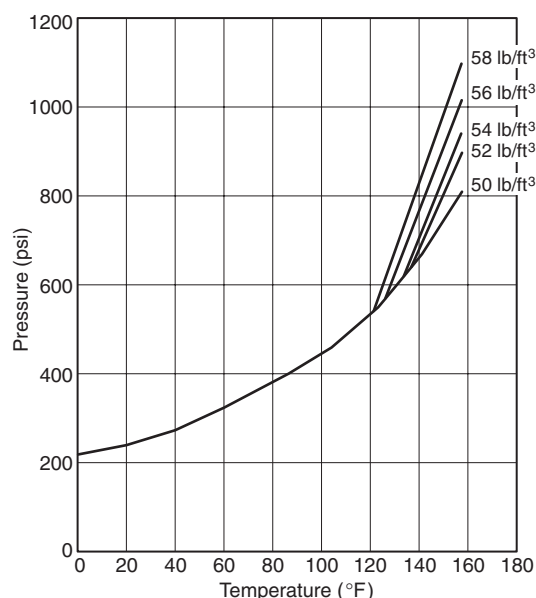
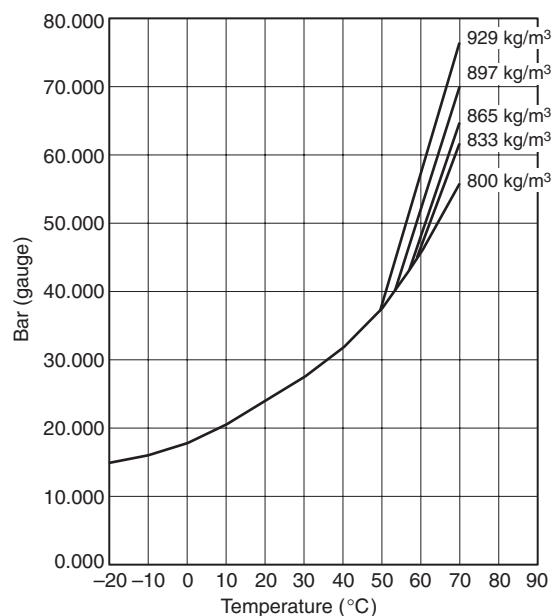
(1) Pressurized to 195 psi at 70°F and a loading density of 71.17 lb/ft³(2) Pressurized to 1340 kPa at 21°C and a loading density of 1140 kg/m³

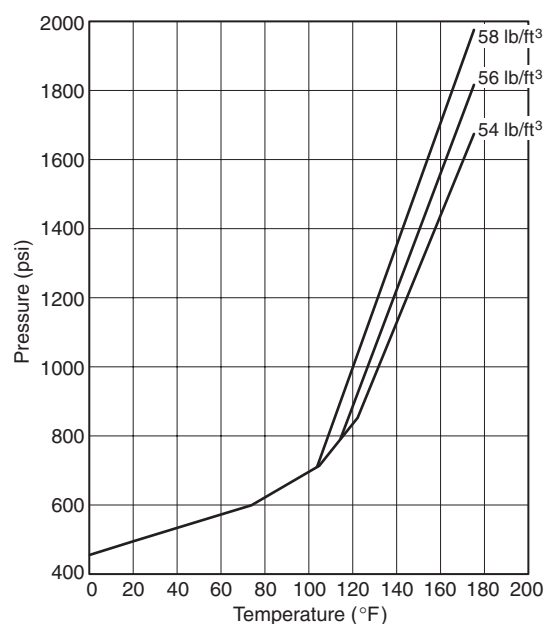
FIGURE A.4.1.4.1(d) Isometric Diagram of HCFC-124 Pressurized with Nitrogen.



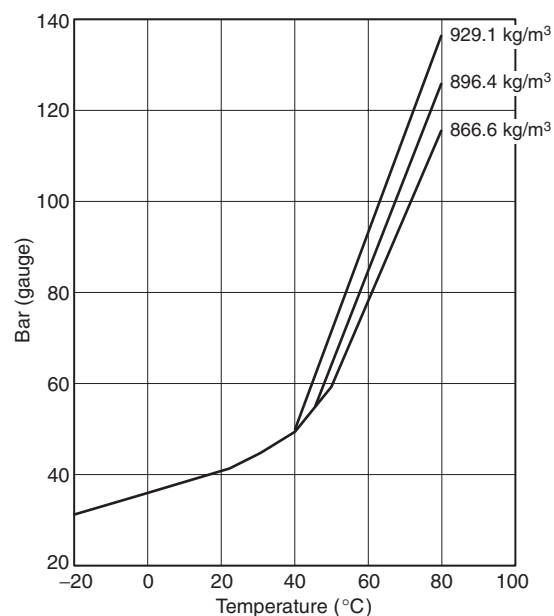
(1) Pressurized to 360 psi at 72°F



(2) Pressurized to 24.82 bar (gauge) at 22°C



(3) Pressurized to 600 psi at 72°F



(4) Pressurized to 41.4 bar (gauge) at 22°C

FIGURE A.4.1.4.1(e) Isometric Diagram of HFC-125 Pressurized with Nitrogen.

With the exception of inert gas-type systems, all of the other clean agents are classified as liquefied compressed gases at 70°F (21°C). For these agents, the pressure in the container is significantly affected by fill density and temperature. At elevated temperatures, the rate of increase in pressure is very sensitive to fill density. If the maximum fill density is exceeded, the pressure will increase rapidly with temperature increase so as to present a hazard to personnel and property. Therefore, it is very important that the maximum fill density limit specified

for each liquefied clean agent not be exceeded. Adherence to the limits for fill density and pressurization levels specified in Table A.4.1.4.1 should prevent excessively high pressures from occurring if the agent container is exposed to elevated temperatures. Adherence to the limits will also minimize the possibility of an inadvertent discharge of agent through the pressure relief device. The manufacturer should be consulted for superpressurization levels other than those shown in Table A.4.1.4.1.

