

FIRE EXTINGUISHING AGENTS TESTED USING THE AIRCRAFT CARGO COMPARTMENT MPS STANDARD

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In the past, the aircraft industry selected Halon 1301 total flood fire suppression systems as the most effective means of complying with the Federal Aviation Regulations. Because of the ban on the production of Halon 1301 in the industrialized nations, new fire suppression systems will need to be certified when Halon 1301 is no longer available. On September 2000, the FAA, in conjunction with the International Halon Replacement Working Group, published the "Minimum Performance Standards (MPS) for Aircraft Cargo Compartment Fire Suppression Systems" to evaluate the fire extinguishing performance of these new agents. This new particular MPS was specifically written for extinguishing agents to be used in aircraft cargo compartment built-in fire suppression systems.

As chemical and fire protection companies developed new extinguishing agents and systems, the FAA initiated a testing campaign to evaluate their fire protection performance using the MPS standard. During this program, the FAA tested various agents including HFC-125, water mist/nitrogen systems, 2-BTP, and FK-5-1-12. This presentation will discuss the results of the fire testing of these agents and systems.