

**Guidance Note to leisure boat industry: EC Regulation 2037/2000
MANDATORY DECOMMISSIONING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE PROTECTION
SYSTEMS CONTAINING HALONS**

If you have a hand-held halon fire extinguisher or an installed fixed system in your leisure boat that contains halons 1211, or 1301 you will be affected by EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

According to EC Regulation 2037/2000, halon fire-protection systems and fire extinguishers must have been decommissioned by 31st December 2003, and the halons recovered. **It is illegal to use or possess such extinguishers** or fire protection systems. There are a few exemptions for critical uses as listed in Annex VII of the Regulation but these are mainly for military purposes. Further information has been issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in their Marine Guidance Notes 258 and 191.

Halon is being phased-out as it is an ozone depleting substance and also has a very high global warming potential. For this reason it is important that halon is disposed of and destroyed in a responsible and environmentally sound manner. If the halon contained in your hand-held fire extinguisher or fire system is not disposed of properly, it may undermine the achievements of the Regulation in terms of protection of the ozone layer.

Disposal of waste fire extinguishers

If you still have a halon fire extinguisher, this should be disposed of via a local authority household waste/civic amenity site or a commercial waste disposal company. It is important to check with your local authority beforehand that this material can be accepted. A contact point able to provide details on facilities can be found (along with other local authority information) in telephone directories. Halon fire extinguishers must not be disposed of in domestic rubbish.

For boats used solely for living purposes, such as houseboats, any extinguishers on these boats containing halon can be treated as domestic waste and will not be subject to the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005. In these cases, the waste should be taken to a local authority waste disposal site and handed to a responsible person there, making it clear that the extinguisher holds a gas that needs to be recovered for destruction or recycled rather than added to general municipal waste.

In all other cases, the waste extinguishers would need to be treated as industrial waste. In these cases a commercial waste disposal company should be contacted so that you can arrange for them to take the extinguishers - they will charge a fee for doing this and you should check that they are registered as waste carriers. These halons will be subject to the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005. A consignment note will need to be prepared before the waste is moved and signed by both you and the waste carrier. You will need to keep a copy of this note for three years. More information on the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/special/pdf/hazwasteleaflet.pdf>. While this waste will be subject to most of the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations, it should be noted that boats and ships are exempt from the requirement to notify premises

to the Environment Agency described on pages 6 and 7 of the leaflet. Details of waste management companies can be found in the yellow pages or the local press.

Should you have any queries on this matter or require further advice please contact davica.Farrell@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Tel 0207 082 8166

Alternatives

There are other permitted forms (alternatives) of fire protection that can be used to protect your boat, previously protected by halon. Information on these alternatives is provided in the publication "Fire Fighting – Halon Phase Out: Advice on Alternatives and Guidance for Users of Fire Fighting and Explosion Protection Systems", which can be found in: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/access/att.pdf>.

For advice on **collection of hand-held fire extinguishers containing halon and alternative fire protection systems** please contact:

British Approvals for Fire Equipment Neville House Tel 0208 541 1950 Fax: 0208 547 1564 Email: bafe@abft.org.uk	British Fire Protection Systems Association Neville House Tel: 0208 549 5855 Fax: 0208 547 1564 Email: bfpsa@abft.org.uk www.bfpsa.org.uk
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Fire Industries Confederation
55 Eden Street
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT1 1BW
Tel: 0208 549 8839
Fax: 0208 547 1564

Halon **destruction companies:**

Cleanaway Ltd Bridges Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4EQ Tel: 00 44 (0)151 348 5000	Shanks Waste Solutions Chareleston Road Hardley Hythe Southampton, Hants SO45 3ZA Tel: 00 44 (0) 2380 883502	Dascem-Europe Ltd Peas Road North West Industrial Estate Northumberland Co Durham 00 44 (0)191 587 4600
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