

Halon Bulletin

December 2009

Under the *Environmental Management Act*, Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation (B.C. Reg. 387/99), Section 27(10):

Effective January 1, 2010, a person must not charge or permit the charging of fixed fire extinguishing equipment with any Class I substance.

Class I substances are listed in Schedule A of the Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation and include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and chlorocarbons. Examples of Class I substances pertaining to fire suppression are:

- Halon 1211, also known as bromochlorodifluoromethane,
- Halon 1301, also known as bromotrifluoromethane,
- Halon 2402, also known as dibromotetrafluorethane,
- all other bromofluorocarbons and bromochlorofluorocarbons, and
- all isomers and mixtures containing any of the above.

These substances are known to deplete the ozone layer and contribute to global warming.

Owners of halon fixed fire extinguishing systems are not required to remove the Class I substance or the system, however, effective January 1, 2010, the system may not be recharged with a Class I substance. In order to provide continuous fire protection, the installation of a new fire suppression system using alternatives to Class I substances should be considered. When choosing alternatives, ensure the potential environmental impacts of the alternative substance have been evaluated. A listing of alternatives can be found on the US Environmental Protection Agency website: www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/fire/index.html.

A copy of the Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.bcairquality.ca/101/government-ozone-depletion.html>.

For further information, contact the Ministry of Environment (250) 387-9921.