Common Myth #26

I found this great water-based agent to put in your foam and water units.

Description

NO! **We often receive requests to alter an extinguisher from its original design. This cannot be done.**

Every extinguisher with a Listing, Rating, or Approval from an independent test lab, Government or Agency has undergone extensive design and testing. To alter any part of the extinguisher voids all of the design work, the testing and therefore the Listing, Rating and Approvals. It also voids the manufacturer's warranty and relieves them of liability.

There is just no way around this. All of the pieces and parts are tested together, including the agent – change one thing and you have sacrificed everything. Performance, reliability and safety can no longer be guaranteed or even known. The use of counterfeit parts from unknown sources will have the same effect.

If you get a bulletin from us saying that one part can be substituted for another, that is your assurance that it has been fully tested by all parties and therefore will not affect the warranty, reliability, safety or performance of the product. This is also assurance that the Listings, Ratings and Approvals remain intact.

Without such information, alterations such as changing agent, changing hoses or nozzles (See Common Myth #25), changing nameplates or putting in additives that are not specifically approved means that you have just made your own extinguisher. No Listings, no Approvals, and no Ratings mean you alone have the liability.

We have not tested different agents or additives for long term compatibility with the internal parts of the extinguisher. Claims of water additives being effective on Class A, B, C, D, and K fires, should not considered true, unless the agent is listed on the recharge label of the extinguisher along with an A, B, C, D, K listing from UL or FM.

As a professional you should do things in a professional manner regardless of cost – more or less – because your customers deserve it!