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AFFF Fluorine Update

Jim Cottrell

Technical contributions and chemistry oversight by Anne Regina and David Plant, NF/Angus

In this edition of Foam Lines I'll update you on National Foam's transition to C6 fluorotelomer surfactants. Last November I published a Foam Lines piece titled, The AFFF-AR-AFFF Fluorine Debates, www.cottrellassociates.com/cottrell_combat-support-home/ewExternalFiles/AFFF%20Fluorine%20Issues.FoamLines%201.4.14.pdf in which I went on about physical and environmental issues associated with chemical components (surfactants) in AFFF that allow foam/water solution to float on oil base (hydrocarbon) fuels. The short version is that ten or more years ago the industry abandoned the chemistry that produced bio-persistent compounds. We are now on the second phase of formulating for the future. To this end, surfactants used in: textile coatings, food contact paper, paint, inks and AFFF firefighting foams are now transitioning to C6 fluorosurfactant rather than the C8 compounds. C6 fluorosurfactants have been found to have a more environmentally benign profile and are significantly less toxic according to global regulatory criteria.

Reformulations Complete

National Foam have completed a reformulation initiative on our standard civilian range of AFFF and alcohol resistant (AR) AFFFs with no disturbances in third party approvals or listings. In fact, R&D have reported some performance improvements in our reformulated range of C6 based firefighting foams. Generally speaking, there's no difference in the old and new in terms of performance. So, stay tuned I'll let you know when headquarters plans to roll-out the new C6's.

Mil F24385

U.S. Navy's, Mil F24385, and U.S. coast Guard 's C6 formulas are close to finish line and are awaiting their inclusion on the U.S. Navy's and USCG qualified products lists (QPL). We anticipate the testing and certification process to be complete by mid-summer. At the moment, the industry's supply chain no longer produce the Navy's C8 formulation which has been the cause for shortages on an industry wide scale.

Cheers!