

# CertAlert

**ADVISORY CAUTIONARY NON-DIRECTIVE**

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**DATE: Feb. 8, 2006 No. 06-02**  
**TO: Airport Operators, FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspectors**  
**TOPIC: Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) meeting MIL-F-24385**

Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5210-6D, Aircraft Fire Extinguishing Agents, dated July 8, 2004 replaces the previous edition, AC 150/5210-6C, which was issued on January 28, 1985. In the new edition, reference is made to the performance requirements for AFFF. The performance standard is the same as that used by the military, MIL-F-24385, *Fire Extinguishing Agent, Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Liquid Concentrate, for Fresh and Seawater*, dated January 7, 1992.

The purpose of this Certalert is to clarify this reference. In the AC cited above, paragraph 3, Application, states: "This AC is not mandatory and does not constitute a regulation. However the information it contains provides an acceptable methodology for complying with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 139, Certification of Airports (Part 139). ..." Chapter 6, Performance Requirements, states: "AFFF agents must meet the requirements of Mil-F-24385."

Any AFFF purchased after July 1, 2006 by an airport operator certificated under Part 139 must meet the Mil Spec as mentioned above. There are several reasons for this requirement. First of all, AFFF has to be compatible when mixed. AFFF manufactured by different manufacturers, although meeting the UL 162 standard, may not be compatible. AFFF meeting the Military Specification will always be compatible with other Military Specification AFFF no matter the manufacturer. Second, AFFF meeting the military specification requires less agent than AFFF meeting UL 162 to extinguish the same size fire. Finally, the requirement to use Mil Spec is in concert with the National Fire Protection Association National Fire Code 403, paragraph 5.1.2.1

Airports should not discard their current inventory of UL 162 AFFF, or replace UL 162 AFFF already loaded on apparatus because it is an effective foam. However, all future purchases at certificated airports must conform to MIL-F-24385.

OSB

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