

MEMBER ALERT

Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager
60 Broad Street – 37th Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA
Tel: +1 212 847 4500
Fax: +1 212 847 4599
E-mail: info@american-club.net



www.american-club.com

MARCH 07, 2006

FIRE EXTINGUISHER RECALL AND GENERAL TESTING PROCEDURES

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has become aware of a recall notice for some USCG approved fire extinguishers made by the Strike First Corporation of America. The Strike First extinguishers are typical of units for use in smaller sized craft and confined spaces in regard to electrical and oil fires. Users should respond to this recall without delay and/or any manufacturer's recommendations associated with it.

The manufacturer has determined that the valve stem seats in a number of its 2.5 and 5lb dry chemical fire extinguishers assembled between December 2002 and February 2004 may prevent the extinguisher from discharging properly when the lever is activated. As a result of this condition, Strike First has initiated a fire extinguisher retrofit program for these units. Retrofit kits are available free of charge by contacting an appropriate Strike First distributor, or by contacting Strike First directly.

The USCG recommends that vessel operators contact the manufacturer/supplier in regard to such extinguishers, and if applicable, take recommended action. For details visit:

http://www.strikefirstusa.com/serv_bull_002.htm.

Questions or comments regarding this safety alert may be addressed to Mr. Klaus Wahle of the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Life Saving and Fire Safety Standards Division at 202.267.0256 or kwahle@comdt.uscg.mil.

Recommendations for all dry powder extinguishers

As a general recommendation, it is worth remembering that the larger 10 lb and 20 lb dry powder extinguishers in use worldwide may also under certain circumstances be susceptible to the compacting of powder which may prevent discharge in circumstances well within a yearly inspection and recertification cycle.

As a means of obviating this, there is merit in test-discharging one or two different extinguishers in rotation at routine boat and fire drills and recharge those found to be deficient. In addition, all dry powder extinguishers should be inverted and agitated to avoid compaction at periods not exceeding six (6) months.