The Real Truth about Smoke Detector Testing and Maintaining NFPA 72 Compliance under the new EPA Rule 20...OR, What the Fake News* is NOT TELLING YOU!

There are some fairly significant changes afoot with respect to smoke detector testing. Due to the implementation of new rules in the US under the EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (or SNAP as it is more commonly referred to), smoke detector testing (which is mandatory in order to be compliant with NFPA 72) can be accomplished utilizing a mix of traditional and trusted products that SDi has provided for more than two decades as well as exciting new alternatives. It's amazing that many industry stakeholders are not aware of the coming changes, and those that are, appear to be a bit confused themselves. As always, SDi strives to simplify the process and describes the new requirements in a simple manner (that is of course able to be backed up by independent third party sources, rather than conjecture).

Facts...Fake News*...and Fabulous Alternatives

Fact: Effective December 31, 2017, aerosol smoke detector testers that utilize HFC-134a as a propellant will no longer be manufactured. (Source: SNAP Fact Sheet, https://www.epa.gov/snap)

What This Means: While the manufacturing of products containing HFC-134a will end on the 31st December 2017, these products WILL be able to be sold and shipped indefinitely under the EPA SNAP 20 Ruling until all stocks manufactured before December 31st 2017 are exhausted. They will not be BANNED. Specifically this means that SOLO A4 Smoke Detector Tester WILL BE SOLD THROUGHOUT the coming year or until supplies are exhausted. We anticipate being able to supply our customers through late 2018 with the same quality products they have used for years where Non-Flammability (and a product that **does not** contain **silicones**) is a key requirement for certain Smoke Detector Testing applications. (Source: Federal Register Vol 80, NO 138 Part II, specifically page 42884).

Your Alternatives: Over the past 5 years, we have redirected and focused our efforts on product development in anticipation of the upcoming changes. We have actively met with the Environmental Protection Agency at their headquarters in Washington, DC and as a member of the National Aerosol Association; we have been able to stay ahead of the curve with respect to all of the changes. Many of our products needed no reformulation or re-design!

CURRENT PRODUCTS!

Smoke Detector Test Aerosols

Smoke Sabre Smoke Detector Tester – Available since 2009, Smoke Sabre is manufacturer approved, NFPA compliant and contains no HFCs. In addition, unlike some competitor's products, ours contain no silicones, so you can have peace of mind where contamination of the detector and the area is a concern. Smoke Sabre is the ultimate solution for handheld smoke detector testing. For more info, please go to www.smokesabre.com

Smoke Centurion / M8 – This product is the same formulation as Smoke Sabre, but is for BOTH Handheld and Dispenser use. For more info, please visit www.smokecenturion.com

Non – Aerosol Smoke Detector Tester

Testifire - The first of its kind, Testifire is an electronic smoke, heat and CO detector tester. Available in both Smoke / Heat and Smoke / Heat / CO tester versions, Testifire allows the user to test without aerosols using a patented smoke generation technology with no silicones. Manufacturer approved and listed testing. NFPA compliant. EPA Rule 20 exempt. Testifire is also not considered a hazardous product to ship (since it does not involve pressurized cans, a savings is also realized when having to ship this product as opposed to aerosols). In addition, Testifire is light and DOES NOT USE bulky lithium-ion batteries that have suffered "issues" recently. For more info, please visit us on the web at www.testifire.com

NEW PRODUCTS!

Aerosols

SOLO A10 – Our new Non-flammable, HFC – Free Smoke Detector Tester, SOLO A10 was developed utilizing Honeywell's "Solstice" Non-Flammable, ultra-low global warming potential (GWP) propellant. SOLO A10 has been manufacturer approved and will offer an easy transition for current SOLO A4 users where non-flammability is a must! In addition, this product will be the only one of its kind on the US market as it will contain no silicones and will remain cost effective.

Electronic Smoke Dispensers

SOLO 365 - Its finally here! SOLO 365 is an innovative new tester for the functional testing of smoke detectors. SOLO 365 delivers smoke via Solo ES6 smoke cartridges offering faster, simpler and cleaner testing. So, no more carrying around bulky aerosol cans! This product is affordable and is not expensive and complicated as the Fake News* may have been telling you! DO NOT BE MISLED!

Trutest – Smoke 400

Fact: Smoke 400, the smoke test aerosol used exclusively for Trutest, our Smoke Detector Sensitivity Tester has been granted a LIFETIME EXEMPTION from the EPA due to the vital role Trutest plays with the sensitivity testing of smoke detectors. Outlined under "acceptable subject to use conditions" for HFC134a. (Source: Federal Register Vol 80, NO 138 Part II, mentioned multiple times between pages 42872 and 42954)

What This Means: Smoke 400 will continue to be available to our customers for use in Trutest under the "acceptable subject to use conditions" for SNAP 20.

Conclusion

Despite our best efforts to inform the users of our products, many Fire Inspectors, AHJ's, Building and Safety Managers and Fire Alarm System Test and Inspection Technicians are unaware of the upcoming changes, and the alternatives available. Some have been fed Fake News*. At SDi, we ALWAYS back up what we say with documentation. We design our products "in-house" and most importantly, we are there to support our customers with our products. Please do not hesitate to contact us by email or phone with any questions that you may have now or in the future.

Regards,

Rick Heffernan
President, SDi

*"Fake News" refers to false information currently being published by some competitors in the detector test & inspection industry."