

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



There are some fairly significant changes ahead with respect to a pillar in fire protection; smoke detector testing. Due to the implementation of new rules 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 as well as other global standards) will now be able to 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 most people 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 lay out the new requirements in a simple manner (that is of course able to be backed up with 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, www.epa.gov/ozone/snap)

What This Means: While the manufacturing of products containing HFC-134a will end, these products WILL be able to be sold and shipped indefinitely. They will not be BANNED. Due to the serious benefits and the importance they play in the life safety arena several of OUR PRODUCTS have been granted an **unlimited "sell-through" period for any and all existing stocks** by the EPA. Specifically, 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 when Non-Flammability (and a product containing NO SILICONES) is a major concern 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 several times 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!

Smoke Detector Test Aerosols

Smoke Sabre Smoke Detector Tester – Available since 2009, Smoke Sabre is manufacturer approved, NFPA compliant and contains no HFC's so it is also EPA Rule 20 compliant. In addition, unlike our competitors, this product contains **no silicones**, so you can have peace of mind where contamination and plastic compatibility are 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 compliant. Testifire is also not considered a hazardous product to ship (since it does not involve a pressurized can so 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 been having “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 in partnership with Honeywell utilizing its Solstice Non-Flammable, ultra-low global warming potential (GWP) propellant. SOLO A10 has been approved by manufacturers 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 market as it will contain **no silicones** and be by far the most affordable, available in 2 convenient sizes.

Electronic Smoke Dispensers

SOLO 365 - Its finally here! SOLO365 is an innovative new tester for the functional testing of smoke detectors. Solo 365 delivers smoke via Solo ES3 smoke cartridges offering faster, simpler and cleaner testing. So, no more carrying around bulky aerosol cans! DO NOT BE MISLED! This product is affordable and is not expensive and complicated as the Fake News* may have been telling you!

Additional changes under EPA Rule 20

Fact: SOLO A7, our Non-Flammable canned air has been granted a LIFETIME EXEMPTION from the EPA due to the importance it plays in certain applications where non-flammability is a must as well as being

an insignificant contributor to the global warming footprint (Source: Federal Register Vol 80, NO 138 Part II, specifically page 42872)

What This Means: SOLO A7 will continue to be available to our customers and not subject to Rule 20 bans based on its list of use conditions

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. (Source: Federal Register Vol 80, NO 138 Part II, specifically page 42872 and 42886)

What This Means: Smoke 400 will continue to be available to our customers and not subject to Rule 20 bans based on its list of use conditions.

Conclusion

Despite our best efforts of educating 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 everything "in-house" and do not out source, and most importantly, we pick up the phone and can discuss and support our products. Please do not hesitate to contact us 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 competitors in the fire alarm test & inspection industry.