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To whom it may concern

Re: LASTFIRE Foam Testing Protocol

The LASTFIRE test Protocol was developed on behalf of the LASTFIRE Group by the LASTFIRE Project Coordinator as a test to assess a foam's capability to achieve the special performance characteristics relevant to large storage tank fire fighting. The test has been rapidly established as a standard for this severe application and has been included as a requirement in foam concentrate procurement specifications by major international oil companies.

The test nozzles are critical to the applicability of the test procedure. Inevitably, as with any small scale application device, minor differences in the nozzles can make significant differences in performance.

It has come to the Project Coordinator's attention that the test is being carried out at various locations and that "LASTFIRE Certified" is being claimed for the results. Whilst the LASTFIRE Group actively encourage the use of the LASTFIRE protocol as a test procedure for foam application to storage tanks, it must be recognised that organisations outside the LASTFIRE Group cannot claim to be certifying authorities on their behalf.

Therefore, the Project Coordinator, on behalf of the 17 oil companies forming the LASTFIRE Group, wishes to make it clear that only the results from tests carried out using the official set of nozzles held within the Group and witnessed by a recognised Group representative can be described as LASTFIRE certified.

This issue has been highlighted by a recent case where a supplier claimed that the foam provided would undoubtedly perform as well as a previous version of the product had done so. This claim was made without consultation with the LASTFIRE Coordinator and without witnessed testing to the LASTFIRE protocol. Of course, the claim was found to be incorrect.

It is also emphasised that fire-testing requirements is only one aspect of a detailed procurement specification. Other issues such as quality control checks, physical property tolerance characteristics and guarantees must also be included.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N Ramsden".

Dr N G Ramsden
LASTFIRE Project Coordinator



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