



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

## **ADVICE NOTE TO PSV OPERATORS**

### **Fire Extinguishers Containing Halon on Buses, Minibuses and Coaches**

EC Regulation 2037/2000 introduces the control of ozone depleting substances which have an adverse affect on the environment and effectively bans the use of Halon in fire extinguishers. This means that it is now illegal to operate buses, minibuses and coaches with fire extinguishers containing Halon 1211 and Halon 1301

**From 1 November 2004 a fire extinguisher containing Halon will be considered a Reason for Failure on any public service vehicle presented for test.** If you are in possession of the PSV Inspection Manual will you please ensure that Halon 1211 and Halon 1301 are deleted from the paragraph which lists the acceptable types of extinguishers in item 21 of the manual.

The outside of the extinguisher will indicate whether the contents are Halon. To avoid a failure you are advised that any Halon extinguishers on your vehicles should be immediately replaced with fire extinguishers, containing water or foam, which are marked BS5423 or EN3 and have a minimum fire rating of at least 8A or 21B.

### **Disposal of Halon fire extinguishers.**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 prohibits the disposal of substances such as Halon in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or danger to human health. It also imposes a duty of care and requires that reasonable steps are taken to keep the waste safe and ensure that it is treated lawfully.

Those authorised to receive controlled waste are registered waste carriers or brokers, local authority waste collectors and waste operations with a waste management licence or a registered exemption from licensing.

For those operators with a number of Halon extinguishers the fire extinguisher manufacturer Chubb Fire Limited will arrange bulk collection (not one offs) and safe disposal of Halon extinguishers. Tel. 0800 32 1666. There is a charge for this service. Other fire extinguisher manufacturers or their agents may also be able to advise on their disposal.