AMEREX TECH Tip № 1

MANUFACTURER'S PARTS

NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, 2022 edition.

- **7.1.2** Persons performing maintenance and recharging of extinguishers shall be trained and shall have available the appropriate manufacturer's servicing manual(s), the correct tools, recharge materials, lubricants, and manufacturer's replacement parts or parts specifically listed for use in the fire extinguisher.
- **3.2.4* Listed.** Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

This Tech Tip elaborates on the phrase "or parts specifically listed for use" as it applies specifically to elastomers (rubber parts) listed with our products.

Amerex Corporation acquires the listing of our products by testing to specified Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards. "Listed" involves what UL refers to as "product certification". To qualify for certification, individual components must be submitted to UL by the manufacturer and pass all of the required tests as an individual component. **A certified UL component does not mean that the component is approved for use in Amerex fire extinguishers**. Those certified parts must then be assembled as a component of a completed fire extinguisher and pass additional testing in order to be an approved component of the final product certification. Amerex Corporation does not have any specific knowledge on the performance of any other components other than those that we have submitted for UL testing and certification.

O-rings and valve stem seals are critical components of our pressurized vessels and substitutions should never be used in place of original Amerex parts. Our o-rings and valve stem seals are composed of carefully selected compounds, containing specific elastomer formulations, that achieve extensive performance criteria to acquire our listing. Compounds vary from manufacturer to manufacturer as they each have their own elastomer recipes that will affect the performance, temperature resistance, chemical compatibility, and the service life. There may be similar products on the market; they might even be a certified UL component, but the performance and reliability remain unknown unless they have undergone final product certification as required by UL.

Our selected compounds are designed to handle extreme temperatures, as low as -65°F, and to be applied to a specific application. These components possess only three-thousandth-of-an-inch tolerance to seal precisely against machined surfaces. These components must be matched to the exact application, the exact o-ring groove, and the exact threaded collar configuration. This is a critical element for our elastomer components that keep our products sealed and pressurized and ready to perform when needed. Amerex will warrant only those parts that are listed and pre-tested by Amerex, and use of any other parts will void all UL product listings and extinguisher warranties.

Amerex urges you to carefully inspect o-rings, valve stems, hoses, nozzles, and all metal parts on all extinguishers you service. Failure to use Amerex parts, or overlooking mandatory maintenance procedures, will release Amerex from any warranty obligations. Most important is avoiding practices that could result in product malfunction, property damage, personal injury, or even loss of life.

Using the QR code at right, please reference our *Portable and Wheeled Parts Book* (P/N 27277) available under "Amerex Manuals" in our Learning Center.



Amerex Service Manuals

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Quality is Behind the Diamond®

7595 Gadsden Hwy.
P.O. Box 81
Trussville, AL 35173

Ph (205) 655-3271
customer.service@amerex-fire.com
intl.sales@amerex-fire.com

www.amerex-fire.com
webstore.amerex-fire.com