

When Fire Extinguishers reach their end of life or following their use, it is essential that they are **depressurised** safely and the materials **disposed of** safely and through approved waste channels.

Fire Extinguisher Products from Jactone fall into 2 distinct product categories:

- BS EN3 Fire Extinguishers fitted with a pressure gauge (contain dry powder ABC grade or Water based media, i.e. AFFF Foam, Wet chemical, water with additive and water)
- BS 6165 Aerosol Fire Extinguishers without a pressure gauge (contain BC or ABC grade powder or ABF Foam)

This leaflet describes the disposal process for Aerosol products **only** (see Safe Disposal Jactone EN3 Fire Extinguishers for other products)

Depressurisation of Aerosol products can be done by 2 methods:

1. **COMPLETE DISCHARGE** of Extinguisher contents into an enclosed container or large Heavy Duty Bag (See Caution below).

Disposal

This method separates the Extinguisherant (dry powder or ABF foam) from the materials of the Extinguisher Body and Valve mechanism. It also eliminates the stored pressure within the extinguisher.

The Extinguisherant (powder) should be sealed in a Plastic Bag and disposed of at an approved landfill; ABF foam may be disposed of, in small quantities (< 5 litres), via the foul waste system when suitably diluted with water (see FIA Fact File No 0039 (Oct 2010).

The Extinguisher Body (Aluminium mainly) and the Valve mechanism (Plastic) can then be disassembled, separated and re-cycled through normal re-cycling waste channels.

This method also applies to USED Extinguishers.

2. **PARTIAL DISCHARGE** of Extinguisher.

The safest way of doing this is to invert the Fire Extinguisher and operate the Valve mechanism, partially discharging the contents into a suitable enclosed container or Heavy Duty Bag, as detailed in (1) above (See Caution below).

Disposal

This will result in less than full discharge, but will result in elimination of the stored pressure within the cylinder. Depending on the Model of Fire Extinguisher, the Extinguisher may then still contain the majority of its Extinguisherant contents.

This means that the Extinguisherant (dry powder or ABF foam), Extinguisher Body and Valve Mechanism can either be disassembled, separated and disposed of / Re-cycled as detailed in (1) or the whole product can be disposed of to approved landfill.

(Please note that for powder products a very short duration (< 1 sec.) operation of the Valve Mechanism and then closure of the valve, it is possible that over a subsequent time period, the Extinguisher will de-pressurise. This is because powder contamination of the valve seal during discharge can lead to the valve seal releasing gas after partial discharge. This is entirely normal. However, we cannot be specific as to the extent of this effect or the time for total depressurisation to occur, if at all. However if this method is found to be effective in depressurising the Body, the amount of powder discharged can be minimal).

Caution

- Always ensure the Fire Extinguisher is fully depressurised prior to any disassembly of components and disposal. Always do this by activation of the Valve Mechanism. Do not rely on any other indication method.
- Do not pierce the Extinguisher Body to depressurise or subject it to temperatures greater than 50°c.
- During any Discharge, care should be taken to ensure that the gas (Inert Nitrogen) does not pressurise the collecting container or bag. The pressure of the Gas must be allowed to escape during the discharge process.
- With reference to the enclosed Material Safety Data Sheets for both BC and ABC Powders, care should be taken not to mix powders of these two types.
- Operators should refer to the handling and protection measures contained within the Material Safety Data Sheets for all extinguishing media.