

# Isle of Man *Fire* and Rescue Service



## **FIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE NOTE 2**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOAM INLETS**

In most types of oil fired installations it is considered advisable to recommend fixed fire fighting equipment in the form of foam pourers.

These notes are intended to be used as a guide under such circumstances and will no doubt be of assistance to installing engineers.

#### **1. Number of Inlets**

The number of foam inlets to be provided will depend on:-

- a) Size of installations: i.e. number of burner units
- b) Number of separate chambers – e.g. boiler houses, storage chambers, number of storage tanks etc.

Each inlet should discharge through to piping to which it is connected into one chamber only, e.g. boiler room, oil tank room or other chamber.

In rooms where more than one boiler, furnace, or oven is installed, it may be found necessary to install separate inlets and supply lines, or it may be possible to afford efficient protection by dividing a single inlet line into two discharge points.

## **2. Type and Size of Inlet**

The inlet should be of type to take the foam delivery equipment used by the Fire Service. This will normally be tapered sleeve, the dimensions of which should accommodate outlets ranging from 2¼ inches (57 mm) to 4½ inches (114 mm).

## **3. Siting of Inlets**

The inlet should normally be placed on the external wall of the building about 2 feet above ground level in a box (which may be recessed if desired) of sufficient size to allow easy connection of equipment and where there is ample space for the manipulation of foam branch pipes and charged hose. The position should be clear of openings from the boiler house or tank chamber so that Firefighters are not unduly exposed to heat and smoke.

## **4. Piping**

### **(a) Sizes – Runs – Materials**

The line of piping from the inlet coupling should be of 3 inches (76 mm) internal diameter galvanised wrought iron piping or other suitable material, screwed and socketed for runs not exceeding 30 feet (9m) and 4 inches (102mm) internal diameter for runs in excess of 30 feet (9m).

The layout should be as direct as possible and any change of direction should be made with standard bends, springs, or long turn fittings. Elbows should not be used. Any bending of galvanised piping should be carried out 'cold'.

Lengths of pipe runs should be not more than 60 feet (18 m). It should be realised that difficulties attend the delivery of foam against a head where it is necessary to site the inlet below the level of the delivery point, specific advice should be obtained from the fire safety department.

**(b) Layout – Spreaders – Location**

The piping should terminate approximately 3 feet (0.9 m) over the burner unit(s) in the boiler house and approximately 6 inches (152 mm) above catch pit, or bund level in the fuel storage chambers.

In all cases, the terminating points should be agreed with the Fire Safety Department before fixing.

The piping should be efficiently earthed.

**5. Inlet Boxes**

The door of the box containing the inlet(s) should be glazed with wired glass and indicated by the words “FIRE SERVICE FOAM INLET” painted on the inner surface of the glass, using 2 inch (50 mm) red block letters. Alternatively, the same wording should appear on a plate affixed to the wall nearby. The door should be secured by means of a spring lock which can be opened from the inside without the aid of a key after the glass has been broken.

Indicator plates (about 4 inches x 3 inches) (102 mm x 76 mm) should be fixed in suitable positions to indicate the chamber(s) with which the foam inlets communicate, e.g. “To Boiler Chamber”, “To Oil Tank Chamber”, etc.

If any further advice is required, please contact:

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