



MANUFACTURER'S PARTS

NFPA 10 – Maintenance, servicing and recharging shall be performed by trained and certified persons having available the appropriate servicing manual(s), the proper types of tools, recharge materials, lubricants and manufacturer's recommended replacement parts or parts specifically listed for use in the extinguisher.

This Tech Tip will describe the phrase "or parts listed specifically for use" as it applies to rubber parts, specifically o-rings and seals.

A "listing" is what UL refers to as "component approval". To qualify as an Amerex "part listed specifically for use", the part must be submitted by the parts manufacturer to UL installed in an Amerex extinguisher, and it must pass all required tests as part of that extinguisher.

Amerex urges you to carefully inspect all rubber parts on each extinguisher you service, as they are particularly important components, and to perform complete maintenance procedures at each recharge. Most important of all is that you do nothing that will void the UL listing or the Amerex warranty.

Whenever and wherever you purchase any Amerex replacement parts, insist only on Amerex parts, not "UL component approved", not "meets UL requirements", and certainly not look-alikes or counterfeit parts. To save a few cents in price or for a little convenience you can void both the UL warranty and the Amerex warranty.

Compounds vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and also vary from part to part from the same manufacturer. Just because an o-ring (or any other part) has been UL component approved it does not mean that it is approved in an Amerex unit. When servicing, o-rings & seals must be matched to the exact application, the exact o-ring groove on the valve and the exact threaded collar configuration. Amerex o-rings have only a three thousandths of an inch tolerance in diameter or cross-section (thickness). Add to this the special compounding for handling -65°F (many others are made to handle only -40°F) and proper sealing of all our low pressure agents/cylinders and you have a special product. "Close" just isn't good enough.

Amerex occasionally receives units back from the field with evidence of total improper maintenance and recharge procedures, including use of improper parts, a mix of different manufacturer's parts, doctored UL serial numbers, wrong or a mix of chemical – you have all seen similar extinguishers in your shop (done by "competitors"). We are as concerned just as you are. Policing begins at home – don't shortcut for expediency.

Amerex will warrant only those parts that are listed by UL and pre-tested by Amerex. Use of other parts will void all extinguisher warranties and more importantly could cause loss of life or property.