

Common Myth #15

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I buy all of my “O” rings from an “O” ring supplier – they say they match perfectly and will work just fine.

Description

Absolutely not true. We often get calls from service managers saying that our extinguishers are leaking after a 6 year “tear-down” had been performed.

First of all, if the extinguisher wasn’t leaking before the 6 year “tear-down” was performed, but leaked afterwards, then the recharge procedures are suspect. In most of these cases it was found pressure leaking from the neck of the extinguisher and was caused either by improper removal of the “O” ring or from using a non-Amerex “O” ring.

Further investigation usually reveals that the problem was solved by using original manufacturer’s parts for the seals. If you review our Tech Tip #1, we talk about the importance of using original parts from the manufacturer. At Amerex, we use specific compounds and very tight tolerances for our seals and “O” rings. We also use a trace element in the compound that is unique to our parts. This allows us to determine whether the proper parts were used during investigation of leakers or warranty claims.

If you review our Common Myth #12, you might see that this is another reason not to service extinguishers made by manufacturers that went out of business. If we know that “O” rings and other seals can’t be substituted, why should we take the chance of servicing units that no longer have the original parts available? Think about what you charge for 6 year maintenance or recharge and how fast that can be eaten up with reworking leakers. Is this really worth it?

Before you substitute parts from a supplier other than the Manufacturer, ask yourself if the loss of reliability, warranty, and the possibility of extra costs makes this practice worthwhile. It could cost your company lots of dollars in an effort to save a few pennies.

Remember the old saying if the price is too good to be true, it probably isn’t true.