



INDUSTRY UPDATE ADVISORY

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“Counterfeit” and “Fake” extinguishers

The problem of counterfeit or “knock-off” extinguishers that look much like a genuine Amerex extinguisher is not new. Recently, there has been an increase in Amerex and other U.S. manufactured extinguishers being copied overseas and sold with unauthorized manufacturers nameplates, logos and even UL Labels. Some of these “knock offs” are finding their way onto U. S. Military installations and eventually back to the U. S.

The following is a list of things to look for to determine if the extinguisher is a real Amerex extinguisher or a “knock-off” based on current Amerex models:

Amerex Model

Smooth deep draw cylinder with no welds on the body
Self-destruct UL nameplate w/“footballs” cut in
Clear anodized aluminum or ss handles/levers
Hose has a UL Mark for “booster hose”, 250 PSI W.P.
Clear anodized aluminum or chrome plated brass valve
Machined valve from bar stock (aluminum or brass)
Large (bigger than a quarter) red gauge
Gauge indicator at 12 o'clock position (charged)
Gauge reads in both psi and kpa or bar
Gauge states what agent-ie: “Dry Chemical Only”
Bi-lingual (English Spanish or English French) label
Recharge instructions match agent label
Individual serial numbers on UL label

Possible Counterfeit

3 piece cylinder with center circumference weld
Silk screened or non-self-destruct nameplate
Steel painted handles and levers
No hose markings, plain rubber, No UL Label
Satin or plain brass valve
Cast or forged valve, not machined
Small multi colored gauge
Gauge orientated in various positions
Gauge only reads in kpa or bar
No agent statement on gauge
English only label
Recharge instructions do not match agent label
One serial number used for multiple ext's.

This is not by any means a comprehensive list. When in doubt, take a picture and send it to Amerex – sales@amerex-fire.com, or talk to your regional V.P. of Sales. Also, keep in mind that this list pertains only to new, commercially available Amerex extinguisher models. Older, genuine Amerex extinguishers may not meet all of the criteria: bi-lingual labels as an example. Consult with other manufacturers of fire extinguishers for guidelines on identifying “knock-off” or “counterfeit” extinguishers with their brand.