



## PRODUCT TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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# CLASS A FOAM COMPATIBILITY AND MIXING OF FOAM CONCENTRATES

## FOAM COMPATIBILITY AND MIXING

As a rule, mixing Class A Foam concentrates that are listed on the USFS Qualified Products List will NOT cause adverse effects to firefighting equipment or foam pump injection systems. Several notable exceptions are listed below and should be followed:

1. Never mix Class A and Class B foam concentrates.
2. Never leave Class A mixed concentrates in the foam tank for more than 30 days.
3. Class A concentrates differ in quality. Some products are more concentrated than others. The operator will have to adjust for this difference by increasing the amount of concentrate flow for watered down foams and decreasing the concentrate flow for more concentrated products.

If an emergency dictates the use of a substitute brand of Class 'A' foam concentrate, (because of extended out of area assignment, etc.) operators should follow these guidelines:

- A. Run foam tank level down to minimum before filling with substitute concentrate.
- B. Log brand and quantity of substitute concentrate. Note: Some class A foams are more concentrated than others. This may require the operator to lower or raise the default percentage setting of the foam system to get the required results of foam solution for varying operational uses.
- C. When returning to your home station (as soon as possible after the incident), drain substitute foam or use all remaining foam for training. Flush and rinse foam cell tank. Clean all strainers leading to foam pump.
- D. Refill the foam tank cell with your Departments foam concentrate.
- E. Re-set foam pump default settings back to your Departments SOP

**NOTE:** As a rule, all foam injection systems should be re-calibrated yearly during annual pump tests. The foam system should be emptied and flushed, strainers cleaned, and system calibrated per the foam pump manufacturers guidelines.

To check the latest USFS QPL for listed Class A foam concentrates, go to: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/documents/qpl\\_fm1.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/documents/qpl_fm1.pdf)

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