



FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin 40.1

Another Missed Deadline by FAA

October 4, 2025

Congress had directed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to transition firefighting foam from Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) to fluorine-free foams through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2018. FAA missed this deadline on October 5, 2021. The fluorine requirement for AFFF was deleted in 2019.

Testing criteria for AFFF has not changed yet but is now being tweaked.

There are two aspects of AFFF:

1. The MilSpec which is the Military Specification criteria strictly set for the production of firefighting foam for the US military.
2. And, "The MILSPEC is a performance standard – many tests to demonstrate compliance with performance requirements."

In 2020, Fire Chief In Randy Krause, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, provided testimony to the Washington State Congress where he mentioned AFFF as over designed for the airport environment.

Chief Krause is too kind.

The Foam Exposure Committee notes the FAA needs to fulfill its duties as directed by Congress.

Fire departments should avoid using AFFF from an airport or military facility on mutual aid incidents due to the environmental and health issues associated with fluorinated firefighting foams.