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DuPont Begins Production of New Fire Extinguishants

WILMINGTON, Del., March 28, 2001 -- DuPont Fluoroproducts has started up U.S. production of its newest clean agent fire extinguishant, FE-227™ (HFC-227ea), to help meet growing worldwide demand for non-halon fire extinguishants. Commercial production of FE 227™ began in late 2000 and is now fully onstream.

FE-227™* is a clean agent fire extinguishant that replaces halon 1301 in flooding systems in telecommunications rooms, data centers and process control rooms. DuPont is marketing the product globally to targeted segments in North and South America, Asia and Europe.

“The new DuPont fire extinguishants plant is producing first-quality product and has already demonstrated full production capacity,” says David W. Boothe, global business manager – fire extinguishants, for DuPont Fluoroproducts. “Our entry into the FE-227™ market will provide a reliable and secure second source of product to support the continued market growth for this application, and also makes DuPont the only supplier capable of providing the full range of non-halon, non-ozone-depleting fire extinguishants on a global basis.

“We also have a unique position as the only supplier with backward integration into key raw materials for FE-227™ and other fire extinguishants,” says Boothe. “This enhances both reliability and competitiveness for DuPont.”

DuPont has received both Underwriter’s Laboratories (UL) and Factory Mutual’s (FM) Component Recognition for FE-227™. The product is available globally by bulk truck, ISO container, 1200-pound container, and 150-pound cylinder.

The company also markets FE-36™ as a streaming agent to replace halon 1211 in portable fire extinguishers; and FE-13™ and FE-25™ as flooding agents to replace halon 1301 in general and specialty applications. All DuPont fire extinguishants are “clean agents,” meaning that they are low in toxicity and leave no residue after application, making them suitable for areas containing sensitive or high-value assets.

DuPont is a science company, delivering science-based solutions that make a difference in people’s lives in food and nutrition; health care; apparel; home and construction; electronics; and transportation. Founded in 1802, the company operates in 70 countries and has 94,000 employees.

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*FE-227™ is equal to FM-200.

FE-227™, FE-13™ and FE-25™ are trademarks of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.