DuPont FE-36™ Fire Extinguishing Agent Receives SNAP Acceptance

Wilmington, Delaware -- May 1999 -- DuPont has received acceptance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under the Significant New Alternatives Policy program (SNAP)* for its fire extinguishing agent DuPont FE-36™, also known as Hydrofluorocarbon-236fa (HFC-236fa).

DuPont FE-36™ replaces Halon 1211** as a streaming agent in portable extinguishers and other fire protection applications. DuPont FE-36™ is designed for use in portable fire extinguishers requiring a clean, residue-free agent. DuPont FE-36™ is the first and only replacement agent for Halon 1211 that has comparable performance, exceptional safety, and zero ozone-depletion potential.

In addition to its environmental benefits, DuPont FE-36™ is highly efficient, has very low toxicity, is electrically nonconductive, leaves no residue, and is easy to use. Its boiling point and vapor pressure are nearly the same as Halon 1211.

"DuPont understood the need for new, safe, efficient fire extinguishing technology and has delivered," says John P. Dowd II, global marketing manager. "We are committed to work with our customers to deliver this valuable technology to the marketplace. SNAP acceptance is an important milestone for our business and our customers," says Dowd.

DuPont FE-36™ is ideally suited for use in high-value applications, such as in computer rooms, telecommunications facilities, clean rooms, laboratories, museums, process control rooms, and commercial/military aviation.

DuPont FE-36™ has been sold into fire extinguishing applications globally since 1996 under the EPA-proposed SNAP rule. The agent is available in Cleanguard fire extinguishers developed by Ansul Incorporated. Cleanguard extinguishers are listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). DuPont is also working with other manufacturers to develop equipment containing DuPont FE-36™.

"DuPont has made significant investment in R&D and operations to develop DuPont FE-36™," says David Boothe, business manager. "We are extremely well positioned to meet the future needs of the marketplace."

DuPont Fluoroproducts markets high-performance fluorochemicals and fluoropolymers worldwide, serving customers in the telecommunications, aerospace, refrigeration, air conditioning, pharmaceutical, automotive, electronics, chemical processing, and housewares markets.

*SNAP is the US EPA's program that reviews and accepts new chemical compounds for use as replacements to Halon or as CFC alternatives.
**Halon 1211 is banned by the Montreal Protocol from further manufacture in developed countries due to its very high ozone-depletion potential.