



GENERAL BULLETIN NO. 5123

DATE: July 18, 2006
 TO: All ANSUL® Authorized Vehicle System Distributors
 FROM: Marketing Department – Pre-Engineered Systems
 SUBJECT: Updated Maintenance Information – A-101™ Vehicle Suppression Systems

Important Semi-Annual Maintenance Update

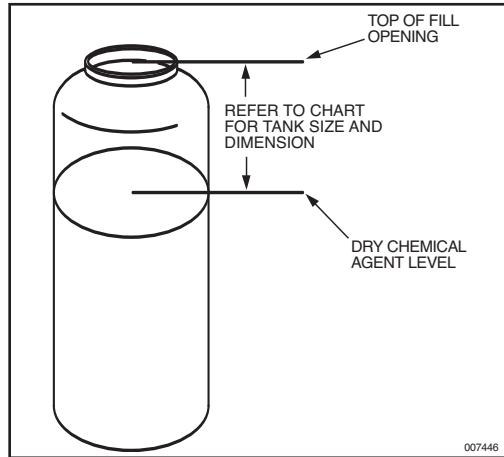
Over the past few months, ANSUL has received several inquiries regarding the proper dry chemical fill levels to be expected during routine semi-annual maintenance of A-101 vehicle suppression system tanks. As a result of these inquiries, a review of this issue has taken place and the table shown below provides information that will further clarify proper inspection and expected dry chemical agent levels in tanks ranging from smaller 10 lb tanks through the large LT-A-101-250 systems.

NOTE: this table applies to both A-101 and LT-A-101 tanks. All measurements should be taken from the TOP of the fill opening (top of threaded fill collar).

Tank Size	Maximum Depth of Dry Chemical	
	Inches	(mm)
101-10	5 1/4	(133)
101-20	6 1/4	(159)
101-20 Low Profile	5	(127)
101-30	7 1/2	(191)
101-50	8 1/2	(216)
101-125	9 1/2	(241)
101-250	19	(483)

Dry chemical suppression agent -- being a granular material -- has the tendency to settle (pack) over time. This settling level can be considerable when taking into account tremendous shock and vibration experienced on heavy mobile machinery; for example, settling of 3 to 6 inches (76 – 152 mm) is not unusual in these cases.

Settling of dry chemical will not affect the function of the fire suppression system. By design, during an actuation sequence, expellant gas is injected into the fire suppression system tank and fluidizes the dry chemical allowing it to flow through discharge lines as intended.



DO NOT "top off" a dry chemical tank if the dry chemical level is below the maximum depth. If it is suspected a tank has lost dry chemical or has been tampered with, the tank should be weighed to verify the chemical fill or refilled according to the appropriate ANSUL Technical Manual. Adding dry chemical to a tank that already contains the proper amount of dry chemical may seriously affect the function and performance of a system to the point expellant gas does not supply enough pressure to direct dry chemical through the discharge lines to the system nozzles.

For further information regarding packing of dry chemical agents, a copy of ANSUL Technical Bulletin Number 45 (Form No. F-8083-1) has been attached for reference.

ANSUL is in the process of updating the applicable technical manuals and will provide these updated pages as soon as they are complete.

If you have questions pertaining to this bulletin, please contact your ANSUL U.S. District Manager, International Area Manager or call ANSUL Technical Services at 1-800-862-6785 / 1-715-735-7415.

At this time, ANSUL thanks you, our valued business partners, for the continuing support and efforts that keep the "ANSUL" name number one in vehicle fire suppression.