

**DATA SHEET
#AFC225**

HICOMBAT A

Class “A” Foam Concentrate

Description

Environmentally responsible **HiCombat™ A** Class A foam concentrate, is a unique new formulation providing unmatched firefighting performance and flexibility. HiCombat™ A is specially designed for use in Class A/B foam systems and is excellent for Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS). **This environmentally responsible formulation does not contain reportable components under SARA Title III, Section 313 of 40 CFR-372, or CERCLA.**

HiCombat™ A foam concentrate works in two ways. First, HiCombat™ A improves the penetrating capability of water. It reduces the surface tension of plain water, which allows it to penetrate surfaces where water might normally run off, to reach deep-seated fires. This helps reduce the amount of water required to extinguish the fire and also provides quicker knockdown. Secondly, HiCombat™ A increases the heat absorbing capabilities of water. Foaming ingredients give water the ability to adhere to vertical surfaces which allows the water longer contact with the fuel. The longer the water is in contact with the fuel, the more heat it is able to absorb. A coating of Class A foam may also be used for exposure protection to prevent fuels from igniting by raising their moisture content and providing a tough protective barrier to an oncoming flame front.

Features

- **Meets USDA Forest Service Requirement per Specification 5100-307.**
- Environmentally responsible formulation.
- UL Listed as a Wetting Agent, at substantially lower usage rates than most Wetting Agents.
- Premix is stable for more than 30 days (using potable water), which is significantly longer than traditional Class A foam solutions.
- Emulsifies Class B Hydrocarbon fuels.

- Contains NO alcohols for higher flash point and compatibility with Class A/B Systems.
- Can be used with fresh, brackish and seawater, plus exhibits good foamability, even in cold water.

Typical Physical Properties

AppearancePale green liquid
 Specific Gravity @ 77°F (25°C).....1.05
 pH9.0
 Minimum Usable Concentrate Temp.20°F(-7°C)
 Maximum Usable Concentrate Temp.120°F(49°C)
 Freezing Point.6°F(-14°C)
 Viscosity @ 70°F (21°C)20 csks
 Viscosity @ 20°F (-7°C).....32 csks
 Surface Tension at 0.1% Conc.....25.7 Dynes/cm
 Surface Tension at 0.5% Conc.....24.1 Dynes/cm
 Flash Point: Pensky Martens
 Closed Cup Method>205°F
 Freeze/Thaw:.....No Effects on Concentrate Properties

Typical Proportioning Settings

UL Listed Wetting0.3%
 Class B, Hydrocarbon Spill Emulsification0.3%
 Structural Fire, Attack and Overhaul.....0.5%- 0.7%
 Exposure Protection, Aspirated0.7%-1.0%
 Compressed Air Application0.1-0.5%
 Air Attack: Water Bombers/Helicopters.....0.3%-0.6%

Suggested Structural Fire Application Rates

Fully Involved, Well Vented0.33 gpm/sq. ft.
 Half Involvement.....0.17 gpm/sq. ft.
 Quarter Involvement.....0.09 gpm/sq. ft.
 Overhaul.....5-10 gpm/sq. ft.

HiCombat™ A can also be used as a training foam for non-fire scenarios. Diluting 1 part HiCombat™A with 4 parts water provides a cost effective foam for training simulation. The diluted foam can then be proportioned at 1%, 3% or 6% to provide foam expansion similar to AFFF foam concentrates.

Standards & Approvals

- Meets USDA Forest Service Requirement per Specification 5100-307
- Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- NFPA 18
- NFPA 1501
- NFPA 1145 (Structure Attack)
- NFPA 1151/298

Compatibility

HiCombat™ A is specially formulated not to cause an adverse reaction with Alcohol Resistant-AFFF foam concentrates should the two agents come in contact within the piping of a Class A/B foam system. Many Class A foam concentrates contain significant amounts of alcohol in their formulation. If they come in contact with Alcohol Resistant-AFFF foam concentrates, activation of the alcohol resistant polymer may occur, which can result in globules that clog small passages in the foam proportioning equipment.

It is recommended that HiCombat™ A not be mixed with any other type of foam concentrate in long term storage. Such mixing could lead to chemical changes in the product and a possible reduction in or loss of its firefighting capability. Most expanded foams are compatible for side-by-side application during an incident.

Storage and Handling

The recommended storage temperature range for HiCombat™ A concentrate is 20°F (-7°C) to 120°F (49°C). HiCombat™ A foam concentrate is not affected by freeze/thaw cycles, and it has unique premix stability properties. Samples of HiCombat™ A, premixed with potable municipal water supplies, have been shown to be stable and not suffer any significant loss of expansion or drainage properties after 30 days. Actual results may vary based on the water supply.

HiCombat™ A should be stored in its original shipping container or in tanks or other containers that have been designed for such foam storage. Recommended construction materials are stainless steel (Type 304L or 316), high-density cross-linked polyethylene, or reinforced fiber-

glass polyester (isophthalic polyester resin) with a vinyl ester resin internal layer coating (50 -100 mils).

Foam concentrates are subject to evaporation, which accelerates when the product is exposed to air. Storage tanks should be sealed and fitted with a pressure vacuum vent to prevent free exchange of air.

Shelf Life, Inspection, and Testing

Proper storage conditions and maintenance maximize the shelf life of any foam concentrate. Factors affecting shelf life are wide temperature changes, extreme high or low temperatures, evaporation, dilution, and contamination by foreign materials. The expected shelf life of HiCombat™ A foam concentrate is 20 years or more, if stored properly, according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Should the concentrate become contaminated, testing to ensure original foam concentrate physical properties is a service available from Kidde Fire Fighting. NFPA recommends the annual testing of foam concentrates to ensure reliability.

Environmental and Toxicological Information

HiCombat™ A is biodegradable. However, as with any substance, care should be taken to prevent discharge from entering ground water, surface water, or storm drains. With advance notice, HiCombat™ A foam concentrate or foam solution can be treated by local biological sewage treatment systems. Since facilities vary widely by location, advance notice should be given, and disposal should be made in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

Tests for acute oral toxicity have proved negative. HiCombat™ A foam concentrate is a primary skin irritant. Repeated skin contact will remove oils from the skin and cause dryness. HiCombat™ A is classified as a primary eye irritant, and contact with the eyes should be avoided. Users are advised to wear protective eyewear. If the foam concentrate enters the eyes, flush them well with water and seek immediate medical attention. For further details see the HiCombat™ A Material Safety Data Sheet.

This product does NOT contain reportable components under SARA Title III, Section 313 of 40 CFR-372 or CERCLA.

APPLICATIONS

Structural Firefighting

HiCombat™ A is a superior firefighting formulation for structural fire attack in the Municipal fire service. This formulation can be up to five times more effective than plain water on Class A materials. HiCombat™ A isolates the fuel by excluding oxygen, adhering to Class A materials, and penetrating faster than plain water, which means less water damage and **less water required**. HiCombat™ A can be used as a premix, batch mixed, educted, or injected into the water stream. HiCombat™ A can also be used for exposure protection. When applying it for this type of application, it is advisable to use air-aspirated nozzles and/or CAFS. Opposing structures can be protected by a durable, insulating blanket of foam deflecting radiant heat. HiCombat™ A significantly out-performs plain water during the overhaul phase of structural firefighting. Acting as a time release capsule, it slowly releases its water, while adhering to walls, ceilings and other surfaces.

Forestry

Using HiCombat™ A, the firefighter takes the offensive approach to attack the fire, minimizing the fire effects in the wildland/urban interface. The unique properties of HiCombat™ A provide an excellent foam blanket, which can be created using backpacks and all handlines. This ground application is particularly useful in building a fire line, and for direct attack, prescribed burning, and mop-up operations.

HiCombat™ A is especially beneficial for any type of air attack, including helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. It is well suited to provide accurate and dependable proportioning through all types of on-board injection systems. HiCombat™ A foam solution dropped from aircraft or helicopters will assist in controlling fire spread and greatly reduce the amount of time required and water used to successfully attack the fire. The unique foaming capabilities of HiCombat™ A create an excellent fire break by pretreating class A materials to increase the moisture content of the fuel, thus inhibiting ignition.

Mining

Whether your mine fire emergency is above ground or underground, HiCombat™ A allows you to take control. The fast wetting, cooling and penetrating characteristics of HiCombat™ A allow excellent fire suppressing capabilities when applied through bore holes for deep seated underground mine fires. These same characteristics make it the agent of choice for stubborn surface mine fires as well. The use of HiCombat™ A as a compressed air foam in

these types of applications can be most beneficial by actually flooding the mine area with a tough, durable blanket of foam. HiCombat™ A allows more water to penetrate the deep seated fires thus creating steam, which reduces temperatures and assists in the extinguishment of the fire.

Industrial

HiCombat™ A's specialized formulation is well suited in the industrial arena of fire fighting. The rapid control, fast wetting, and superior penetrating capabilities of HiCombat™ A allow it to be very effective through fixed sprinklers systems as well as hose stream applications. Kidde Fire Fighting manufactures a complete line of foam proportioning equipment and systems that are compatible with HiCombat™ A for this application. Existing sprinkler systems can easily be converted to Class A systems. This is especially beneficial in paper manufacturing, lumber and saw mills, as well as power generating stations having coalbunkers. Anywhere you find a Class A fuel hazard, you'll find HiCombat™ A as the fire suppressant agent of choice.

Tire Fires

Tire fires are an extreme threat to the environment and can be one of the most difficult fires to control and extinguish. HiCombat™ A has a proven track record for the extinguishment of these types of fires. Typically, thousands of gallons of water and heavy earth-moving equipment are required to extinguish a tire fire. The use of HiCombat™ A will greatly reduce the amount of water and equipment required. The alternating application of HiCombat™ A through aspirated and non-aspirated nozzles offer a penetrating and smothering blanket, allowing more water to get into the deep seated fire. This equates to less water, equipment, manpower and dollars spent to control and extinguish these tough fires. Not only is HiCombat™ A environmentally friendly, it is your best weapon for rapid fire attack on these environmentally destructive tire fires.

Hydrocarbon Spill Control

HiCombat™ A is also formulated for extinguishing and emulsifying hydrocarbon spills at a 0.3% application rate. Special care should be used when using HiCombat™ A on class B fire spill situations. The utilization of air-aspirating nozzles, over non-aspirating nozzles, may offer more effective control of these situations. HiCombat™ A should be used on hydrocarbon spills ONLY. Class A foam should never be used on polar solvent or water miscible fuels.

Wetting Agents vs. Foam

Foam and wetting agents are not the same, as evidenced by development of separate NFPA standards within the same technical committee.

NFPA-11, Standard for Low Expansion Foam defines foam as a stable aggregation of small bubbles of lower density than oil or water that exhibits a tenacity for covering horizontal surfaces. It flows freely over a burning liquid surface and forms a tough air-excluding, continuous blanket that seals volatile combustible vapors from access to air. The basic mechanism foam utilizes for extinguishment is to separate the fuel from oxygen eliminating one leg of the fire tetrahedron, thus interrupting the combustion process. In situations where a fire has been extinguished or ignition has not occurred, foam also serves to provide a visual confirmation that the surface of the fuel has been covered.

NFPA -18, Standard on Wetting Agents defines Wetting Agents as chemical compounds which, when added to water in proper quantities, materially reduce its surface tension, increase its penetrating and spreading abilities, and may also provide emulsification and foaming characteristics. Wetting agents generally contain a surfactant or emulsifying ingredient which enables them to mix (emulsi-

fy) with hydrocarbon fuels similar to oil and water in salad dressing. This is sometimes referred to as “encapsulating” or “locking up” the fuel.

Many fire service professionals are not aware there is a difference between foam, and wetting agents or emulsifiers. Understanding the above performance parameters and limitations of each will help the user determine the applicability of each agent for the intended use. HiCombat™ A, along with being an excellent class “A” extinguishing agent, can also be used as an emulsifier on hydrocarbon fuel spills. However, Class B Wetting Agent listings do not extend to polar solvents or water miscible fuels.

The Fire Protection Professionals

Kidde Fire Fighting is dedicated to the fire protection and prevention of all types of unique fire hazards. We have been manufacturing foam agents, hardware, apparatus and systems for over 70 years. We are dedicated professionals, providing superior products and technical assistance world-wide. Team up with **The Foam Solutions Professionals** at Kidde Fire Fighting to solve your specific fire protection needs.

Ordering Information

Capacity	Description	Part Number	Shipping Weight lbs.	(kg)	Approximate Shipping Cube Ft ³	(m ³)
5-Gallon	Pails (Round)	3170-5340-6	.46	(20.9)	.1.13	(0.029)
(19 litres)						
55-Gallon	Drums	3170-5481-6	.503	(228.0)	.11.10	(0.326)
(208 litres)						
275-Gallon	IBC Reusable Tote Tank	3170-5725-6	.2549	(1156.0)	.48.20	(1.061)
(1041 litres)						
Per Gallon	Bulk	3170-5001-6	.8.75	(4.0)		

This information is only a general guideline. The company reserves the right to change any portion of this information without notice. Terms and conditions of sale apply and are available on request. 10/07 (Rev B) Printed in USA AFC225.QXD

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