

KISH P & I LOSS PREVENTION CIRCULAR KPI-LP-112-2013 **(Counterfeit Fire Extinguishers)**

As per USCG Alert 01-13; Counterfeits of approved portable fire extinguishers manufactured by Amerex Corporation and Buckeye Fire Equipment have been discovered. Both companies are major producers of genuine approved fire extinguishing equipment and serve a worldwide market.

These counterfeit extinguishers present a significant safety hazard as their capability to extinguish a fire is unproven;

- * They may be charged with a powdery substance that is not a fire extinguishing agent

- * The pressure cylinder is not DOT approved, and

- * The pressure gauge may not function or give false readings.

The dry-chemical counterfeit extinguishers are size B-II and may be identified by several distinguishing features:

1-Counterfeit units may have duplicate serial numbers. Genuine approved extinguishers will have a unique serial number for each extinguisher. There may be other serial numbers used on the counterfeits.

2-The labels on counterfeit extinguishers may be printed simplistically. Labels on genuine approved extinguishers will include a security imprint/texture behind the UL LISTED logo. Genuine Amerex Corporation extinguishers will have a pattern of scored 'circles' (see below) and genuine Buckeye Fire Equipment extinguishers will have the letter S scored into the label.

3-The bottoms of the counterfeits have a rounded curved-in lip as shown on the right side of the image below. The bottom of a genuine Amerex extinguisher is shown on the left side of the image. Genuine Buckeye extinguishers will have a date stamped on the bottom.

4-The counterfeit extinguishers have been reported to have black or red plastic handles. (See "A" below) Genuine approved dry-chemical B-II extinguishers typically have handles that are constructed of silver-coloured aluminum (although there are some with plastic handles).

5-Pressure gauges on the counterfeit units may be the wrong colour. The gauges on genuine approved Buckeye dry-chemical extinguishers will have a red background.

6-Counterfeit extinguishers may have welded seams on the sides of the cylinders. (See "B" below)

