



## FIRETRACE INTERNATIONAL (EMEA)

### FIRETRACE® ensures reliable "micro-environment" fire protection

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Introduced more than two decades ago, genuine FIRETRACE® stand-alone, automatic fire suppression systems for micro environments are today cost-effectively protecting over 150,000 pieces of mission-critical equipment around the world; electrical enclosures, cabinets, machinery housings and technical systems. By providing reliable around-the-clock, unsupervised protection, FIRETRACE stops a fire before it can do expensive and possibly irreparable damage to vital equipment or produce volumes of life-threatening smoke and toxic fumes.



But what is FIRETRACE and how does it work? Genuine FIRETRACE is a self-seeking fire extinguishing system that comprises an extinguishing agent cylinder attached to proprietary Firetrace Detection Tubing via a custom-engineered valve. This small-bore polymer tubing is a linear pneumatic heat and flame detector that was specially developed to deliver the desired temperature-sensitive detection and delivery characteristics. The leak-resistant tubing quickly detects a fire at its source, ruptures and automatically releases the suppression agent, extinguishing the fire precisely where it starts and before it can take hold.

#### SOLUTION VERSATILITY.

Much of FIRETRACE's increasing popularity is down to the reliability and build quality of the genuine FIRETRACE product, the investment that Firetrace International continues to make into ever more efficient fire protection solutions, and the number of major international listings, approvals and accreditations the systems have amassed. These include such organisations as UL [Underwriters Laboratories], FM [Factory Mutual] and more than 25 other internationally renowned and independent accreditation and approvals agencies. FIRETRACE is also CE [Conformité Européene or European Conformity] marked.

#### THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

Indeed, it is this combination of quality, expertise and approvals that differentiates genuine FIRETRACE products manufactured by Firetrace International from those supplied by companies that have taken advantage of the FIRETRACE name, brand and reputation to offer inferior products that lack any form of testing, third-party accreditation or approval. Often these non-authorised tube-based "imposter" products are not installed to the established FIRETRACE guidelines, utilise inappropriate suppression agents, incorporate sub-standard detection tubing, and are not backed with adequate post-installation technical support.

The result is a detection and suppression installation that may fail when it is most critically needed, converting any small cost saving when compared with the genuine article into the potentially crippling loss of a mission-critical asset. Worse, it may result in allowing the fire to spread, risking damage to other assets or threatening lives. For this reason, Firetrace International has created a global network of authorised FIRETRACE distributors. These trading partners are skilled in hazard analysis, agent and system selection, installation, commissioning and support. They also use only genuine FIRETRACE components.

#### SMART DETECTION, SMART SUPPRESSION.

Unlike conventional "point" detectors that can take time to activate, FIRETRACE detects along the entire length of the tube. The flexibility of the proprietary tube means that hard to reach areas do not present any problems; it can be "snaked" through the smallest or most complex enclosures, providing protection wherever it is needed. The FIRETRACE Detection Tubing's unique properties enable it to endure harsh environments - from the dirt heat and vibration of an engine enclosure to chemical attacks from elements used in fume cupboards.

To provide the best protection for the specific fire risk, FIRETRACE is installed along with the most appropriate fire suppression agent for the particular hazard. It can be supplied with most commercially available agents and is ideal for Class A, B, C and D fires. The particular agent is selected following a careful assessment of the hazard and is chosen to ensure that the discharge of the agent does not itself damage the asset being protected.

Currently, FIRETRACE agents include dry chemicals, CO<sub>2</sub>, foam, water and a range of clean and environmentally-acceptable chemical agents, including FM-200® and 3M™ Novec™ 1230 Fluid. Every FIRETRACE installation is entirely self-contained and is in a state of constant around-the-clock readiness. It requires no electrical power and no expensive control panel; its cost-effectiveness is further boosted by the fact that it can be installed quickly and simply and the maintenance requirement, although important, is minimal.

There are two FIRETRACE systems from which to choose. The Firetrace Direct System utilises the FIRETRACE Detection Tubing as both the detection device and the suppressant delivery system, whereas the Firetrace Indirect System uses the FIRETRACE tube as a detection and system activation device, but not for the agent discharge. The rupturing of the tube results in a drop of pressure causing an indirect valve to activate. This diverts flow from the detection tube and the agent is discharged from the cylinder through diffuser nozzles, flooding the entire enclosure. Both systems can be integrated with building management systems and both can, in addition to automatic activation, be activated electronically.

NEW APPROVALS, NEW LITERATURE.

EMEA operations for Firetrace International are managed from Gatwick in the UK. This facility, which has been in operation for less than a year, was recently awarded CE marked status at its first attempt and secured ISO-9001:2008 status and FM [Factory Mutual] approval all within the space of a fortnight.

It has also introduced a new sales literature pack. In addition to profiling Firetrace International, it incorporates a number of individual datasheets on key genuine FIRETRACE market sectors and applications.

Editor's Note: Nick Grant is EMEA General Manager for Firetrace International. His experience embraces the design of fire safety systems and responsibility for numerous large International projects. He has a BA (Hons) from Amsterdam's Vrije Universiteit and Hull University in the UK. Further information on FIRETRACE is available from the FIRETRACE EMEA head office in the UK on +44 (0) 1293 780390, or from Firetrace International headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona USA on +1 480 607 1218. The company's website is at [www.firetrace.com](http://www.firetrace.com).

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