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Globe Technologies Corporation



Subject: Dates stamped into Fusible Links

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We encourage maintenance companies to use as fresh inventory as possible; it is not necessary or a code requirement. The date stamped into a fusible link during manufacturing is intended as "Inventory control identification". The date however, IN NO WAY limits or suggests when the fusible link can be used.* It is important to understand that fusible links, having NEVER been used, have no shelf life. Fusible links only begin to degrade once they are installed into a system and exposed to the hazard. From the INSTALLED date, the life of the fusible link is not to exceed six (6) months. Replacement is required as the links may not be reused. In fact, the code requires used links to be destroyed.

**To maintain inventory levels that are suitable to meet market demand, Underwriters Laboratory allows fusible links to be stamped with the upcoming year and sold beginning Oct. 1st of the previous year. The use of previous year fusible links after October 1st is allowed as well. This allows for a smooth transition and adequate inventory in the marketplace. Again, the date stamped into the fusible link does not limit when the fusible link may be used. The usage of previous dated or future dated fusible links is allowable by code as they have no shelf life.*

NFPA17A Standard for Wet Chemical Extingulshing Systems recognizes the date is not a determining factor for usage and has included language within the standard that reflects that. Below are those references from that standard:

7.3.4* Fixed temperature-sensing elements of the fusible metal alloy type shall be replaced at least semiannually from the date of installation or more frequently, if necessary, and shall be destroyed when removed.

A.7.3.4 The date of manufacture marked on fusible metal alloy temperature-sensing elements does not limit when they can be used. These devices have unlimited shelf life. The intent of 7.3.4 is to require replacement of fusible metal alloy temperature-sensing elements that have been installed for up to 6 months in environments subjecting them to contaminant loading, such as grease in restaurant hoods and ducts that could adversely affect their proper operation.

7.3.4.1 The year of manufacture and the date of installation of the fixed temperature-sensing element shall be marked on the system inspection tag, and the tag shall be signed or initialed by the installer.

As you can see in the language above in Section A.7.3.4, dates are not a limiting factor. Because of this, section 7.3.4.1 was added requiring dates of the fusible links be recorded on the inspection tag along with the initials of the installer. Any fusible links being removed shall be destroyed.

As a premier manufacturer of fusible links we stand behind our products. I've included a copy of our Iron clad Warranty. Life safety is our only concern. The use of previous, current or future year dated fusible links is not a concern as long as the links were never used and stored properly. Globe fusible links are UL Listed and UL Classified for use in every brand of fire suppression system. Globe Fusible Links meet the requirements of the Code, maintains the UL Listing of the fire suppression system and complies with the Installation and Design Manuals of most manufacturers. Should you have any questions concerning the use of Globe fusible links please feel free to contact us. I have included some additional information concerning Globe Fusible Links for your convenience you may find informative. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,



Michael J. Laderoute
Vice President of Sales
Globe Technologies Corp