

Fire and Rescue NSW Operations Bulletin 2011/03 Foam aeration tubes



Issue

FRNSW uses several models of spray branch and each model requires a different foam aeration tube.

Station Commanders need to check that foam aeration tubes on appliances match at least one corresponding branch. Firefighters need to know which spray branches the foam aeration tubes can be connected to.

Background

FRNSW has been purchasing spray branches for over 20 years and, during this time, branch suppliers and designs have changed. The standard inventory includes:

- 1 x 70 mm select flow spray branch
- 3 x 38 mm select flow spray branch
- 1 x 70 mm foam aeration tube
- 1 x 38 mm foam aeration tube.

There are currently two models of 70 mm spray branch and three models of 38 mm spray branch in service. Each model has a visibly different rubber bumper around the nozzle. Unfortunately, this variation in bumper shape means that each model requires a different foam aeration tube.



38 mm spray branches (left to right):
Akron 1717 (pre 1993), Akron 1717
(post 1993) and Protek 366 APG.



70 mm spray branches (left to right):
Akron 1724 and Akron 1727.

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Instructions

1. Identify the aeration tube stowed on the appliance. The style number is clearly marked on the tube.
2. Identify the branches stowed on the appliance, using the images on pages 3-4.
3. Check each appliance to ensure that the:
 - 38 mm foam aeration tube matches at least one 38 mm spray branch
 - 70 mm foam aeration tube matches the 70 mm spray branch.The image captions explain which spray branch can be used with which aeration tube.
4. If the 38 mm foam aeration tube does not match any of the 38 mm branches on the appliance, Station Commanders must order one foam aeration tube (refer to ESCAT for instructions) that can be connected to at least one of the 38 mm spray branches.
5. If the 70 mm foam aeration tube does not match the 70 mm branch, contact the Equipment Development Unit.
6. Foam aeration tubes that do not match the branches stowed on an appliance must be returned to the zone office to facilitate exchange where possible.



NOTE

Foam may be produced without an aeration tube. When producing foam without an aeration tube, refer to the manufacturers' instructions for the correct proportion of foam and set the nozzle to a narrow cone to maximise foam aeration and expansion.



WARNING

The performance (expansion, projection, coverage and persistence) of finished foam produced without using an aeration tube may be comparatively poor and not adequate for fighting fires involving polar solvents.

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Foam aeration tubes for 38 mm spray branches



38 mm Akron 1717 spray branches manufactured before 1993 require the Quick Attack Style 765 foam aeration tube.



38 mm Akron 1717 spray branches manufactured after 1993 require the Quick Attack Style 766 foam aeration tube.



38 mm Protek 366 APG spray branches require the Protek Style 212 APG foam aeration tube.

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Foam aeration tubes for 70 mm spray branches



70 mm Akron 1727 spray branches require the Quick Attack Style 777 foam aeration tube.



70 mm Akron 1724 spray branches require the Quick Attack Style 768 foam aeration tube.

Contact officer: Station Officer Andrew Dadley, Acting Equipment Development Officer, 9742 7157, andrew.dadley@fire.nsw.gov.au.

Noted: Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other
Checked: Duty Commander					

Previous Operations Bulletin: [2011/03 Minimise spread of Myrtle Rust Fungus](#)