



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY  
Aeronautical Information Services

**AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

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*The following circular is hereby promulgated for information, guidance and necessary action*

*M. Munyagi*  
**Director General**

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**USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN AIRCRAFT**

1. A recent report on a fatal accident to a light aircraft gave, as an attributable cause, that the pilot having carried out an acceptable fire drill was possibly overcome by the toxic effect of a discharged fire extinguisher combined with the effects of a combustion process.
2. The following information provided by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch, Tanzania, is therefore drawn to the attention of operators and flight crew.
3. The use of Methyl Bromide and Carbon Tetrachloride hand held extinguishers is prohibited in aircraft crew and passenger compartments, where harmful concentrations of toxic gasses could occur when an extinguisher is used.
4. Fumes from any combustion process are toxic, and the choice of a fire extinguishant is a compromise between the fire hazard and a possible increase in the hazard due to the toxicity of the extinguishant itself. The problem is one of selecting an extinguishant which reduces the total hazard the most, is the least toxic in combination with combustion, and yet is effective against the type of fire likely to occur. Extinguishants are now available which, when discharged, are appreciably less toxic than Methyl Bromide and Carbon Tetrachloride. One such extinguishant is Bromochlorodifluoromethane (B.C.F.). This extinguishant is particularly effective against electrical and flammable liquid fires. Whilst less toxic than M.B. or C.T.C. it does nevertheless have certain toxic qualities when combined with combustion, and the purpose of this notice is to acquaint flight crew personnel with the knowledge that any extinguisher can have an adverse toxic effect when operated in confined areas.
5. Most hand held fire extinguishers carry a warning to this effect and such warnings should be borne in mind when discharge is considered.

***Cancel AIC 19/1979***