

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

SAFETY ALERT

No. 02-05

August 20, 2002

Subject: Retardant Fill Rate (Maximum – 500 gallons-per-minute)

Area of Concern: Airtanker Operations

Distribution: All Aviation Personnel

Discussion: The National Airtanker Service Contract Section C.5.2 (6) (B) states: “All retardant tanks shall be capable of being filled in conformity with the certified retardant load through 3-inch diameter single or dual kamlock fittings on both sides of the aircraft or from the tail at a minimum fill rate of 400 to a maximum fill rate of 500 gallons-per-minute.”

Exceeding the 500 gallons-per-minute fill rate may result in certain aircraft being overfilled and causing retardant to leak.

/s/ Robert Galloway
Robert Galloway
Aviation Safety Manager