

Integrated fire detection and suppression systems

Control Fire Systems Ltd., Canada, offers argon fire suppression systems for use in occupied areas. The clean and colourless alternative to halon-1301 has zero ODP and zero GWP. The fire suppression agent is stored as a compressed inert gas in high-pressure steel cylinders and the cylinders are set up and grouped together in special frames, with individual cylinder suspension mechanisms, to form a storage unit for variable sized cylinders. The special frames also ensure greater flexibility when these systems are extended or individual cylinders have to be changed quickly. Individual cylinder suspension weighing mechanisms offer a unique and inexpensive method to supervise and monitor, at a glance, each cylinder's Argon leak seal integrity.

Since argon is heavier than the surrounding air, it permeates the hazard area rapidly and thoroughly. Fire suppression effect is achieved by the displacement of oxygen in the air and comes into play when the oxygen level inside the area falls below the specific limit required for combustion. In the majority of cases, the fire will be suppressed when the oxygen level sinks to 13.8 vol-per cent. Application areas for argon systems include:

- Computer rooms and data processing areas;
- Telephone switch-gear enclosures;
- Remote cellular sites;
- Industrial robotic systems;
- Electrical transformer vault enclosures;
- Art galleries, collections and archive vaults;
- Electrical generator enclosures; and
- Bank vaults and document storage.

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