



Date Codes on Fusible Links

There is a trend in the fire protection industry. More and more local Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) are taking the position “when maintenance is performed on a fire suppression system and the fusible links are replaced as required by code, the new fusible links must bear the current year date stamp”. *Example: Any system that receives maintenance in 2018 must have fusible links installed bearing the 2018 date.* This position is becoming an item for debate. Globe, as the leader in providing these fusible links to the fire equipment industry receives an abundance of calls from Fire Equipment Dealers (FED), fire officials, and industry continuously asking if older dated fusible links can be used.

There is nothing in the fire code requirements mandating the use of current year dated fusible links when maintenance is performed. In fact, the Annex note in NFPA 17A clearly states the date on the fusible link does not limit when they can be used. Section 7.3.4.2 supports the use of older dated fusible links by mandating the year of manufacture and the date of installation be recorded on the inspection tag of the system.

The position taken by many AHJ’s is one of preference and is not mandated or supported by code. Our advice is to do what your AHJ is requesting regardless of what the code is telling you. Remember the code is the minimum guideline and the AHJ is within his enforcement powers to require more than what the code is calling for. In the cases where the AHJ is not requiring fusible links with the current year, it **IS** acceptable to use older dated fusible links that are properly stored and cared for.

There are however several concerns that need to be raised.

1. Older fusible links cannot be sitting in your service truck for months at a time where ambient temperatures fluctuate and can reach extreme hot or cold conditions.
2. Fusible links must be stored in a cool, dry place.
3. Recycling of previously used fusible links is forbidden. Once a fusible link is installed within the fire suppression system it begins to degrade. The code stated above mandates used fusible links are to be destroyed after use. Not adhering to these simple guidelines may result in unwanted discharges or no discharge at all. Also keep in mind that fusible links older than one year are out of warranty. Should an unwanted discharge or problem arise you will not be able to turn to the manufacturer for support.

Globe Technologies requires the use of fresh inventory, and always recommends the use of links within the current date code preventing any conflicts with the local AHJs and insurance underwriters. This practice will provide you and your customer with product under warranty and will help to prevent unwanted discharges or systems not performing as they are intended. The use of fresh fusible link inventory also provides you and your customer a one-year warranty.

Please watch our YouTube video on this subject. Follow the link to https://youtu.be/ULhXyou_Lpk or visit our web site at www.globetechnologies.com