

Interagency Helicopter Operations

Subcommittee



To: Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee

From: Chair, Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee

Re: US Forest Service M-2015 Helitorch

Date: May 5, 2016

Background:

The Forest Service M-2015 Helitorch, designed by the Missoula Technology and Development Center, has been successfully flight tested multiple times and has run through close to 200 barrels of fuel since 2010 with no negative feedback. This aerial ignition device has been well received for use on prescribed fires.

Key Points:

1. The Forest Service M-2015 Helitorch may be built by a manufacturer of the local unit's choosing, but welds must be completed by a certified welder or the welder must be qualified with approval from MTDC. Welds shall not be painted before technical inspection described below.
2. Technical drawings (MTDC-1102) and the operations manual will be obtained through MTDC.
3. A technical review of the completed helitorch will be performed by the MTDC ignition specialist or their assigned representative prior to local acceptance from the manufacturer. This review will inspect for quality craftsmanship and adherence to technical specifications.
4. The local unit and MTDC acceptance of the manufactured helitorch will be documented by signature. The acceptance signature page must remain with the helitorch as proof of inspection.
5. A serial number will be assigned to each Forest Service M-2015 helitorch at the time of acceptance. The serial number will be attached to the helitorch and recorded on the acceptance signature page.

Recommendation:

It is our recommendation to the National Interagency Aviation Committee that the Forest Service M-2015 Helitorch be approved for purchase and use by all agencies using the Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide, with the stipulation that the key points outlined above are required to be adhered to in order to maintain quality control.

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Chair, IHOp Subcommittee

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