

消防處
防火總區

香港九龍尖沙咀東部康莊道 1 號 5 樓
消防總部大廈



**FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
FIRE PROTECTION COMMAND**

FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING,
No. 1 Hong Chong Road, 5/F.,
Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

本處檔號 Our Ref.: (16) in L/M No.(1) in FP 206/0059 II

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

電訊掛號 Telex: 39607 HKFSD

HX



(24 小時 Hours)

圖文傳真 Fax: 852-2723 2197

電話 Tel. No.:

19 November 1998

FSD Circular Letter No. 2/98

Recall of Omega Sprinklers

As a result of defects identified in the captioned sprinkler heads, there has been a general recall action on the 'Omega' series sprinklers manufactured by the Central Sprinkler Corporation and Central Sprinkler Company in USA. In response to such action, I now announce, with immediate effect, that the approvals on the sale and use of the 'Omega' series sprinklers (as per attached list) approved by FSD previously are now withdrawn. You are therefore advised to check all the sprinkler installations under your charge/maintenance for the possible use of the said "Omega" series sprinkler heads and to arrange for necessary replacement. I should also be grateful if you would let me have a list of buildings or premises that are installed with such sprinklers in order that we could follow the matter up with the owner/occupier concerned.

2. We understand that there are replacement programmes of the sprinklers arranged by the manufacturer in the United States of America, but you should liaise with the local agent for arrangements in Hong Kong. For more information on this issue, you should contact :-

United States of America

Central Sprinkler Company
451 North Connon Avenue,
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446,
USA

Tel. No. (215)362-0700
(800)523-6512
Fax No. (215)362-5385
Website-Omegarecall.com

Hong Kong

Central Spraysafe Co. Hong Kong
Room E, 4/F., Success Industrial Building
Sheung Hei Street,
San Po Kong,
Kowloon

Tel.No.2997 7328

Hong Kong

Shun Yick & Co. Ltd.,
22/F., Greatmany Centre,
109-119, Queen' s Road East,
Wanchai,
Hong Kong

Tel.No.: 2527 9663

-----3. I have enclosed some relevant information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Omega Fire Sprinkler Settlement and Recall Information for your reference.

Signed
(LAU Shu-lam)
for Director of Fire Services



Omega Sprinkler Information

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Omega Sprinkler Update

For more than two years, UL has been actively urging homeowners and other property owners whose buildings are equipped with Omega brand sprinklers manufactured by Central Sprinkler Company since 1982 to have samples of those sprinklers submitted to UL or Central Sprinkler for operational testing. Of the more than 4,000 Omega sprinkler samples submitted to UL from more than 250 locations throughout the United States, 27 percent did not operate at 5 pounds per square inch (psi), which is the UL requirement for new sprinklers. UL has determined the problem to be site specific. On Oct. 8, 1998, new requirements for UL 199, the Standard for Automatic Sprinklers for Fire-Protection Service, went into effect, and the UL and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) Listings for all Omega brand sprinklers manufactured by Central Sprinkler were withdrawn.

On Oct. 14, 1998, the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#) and [Central Sprinkler Corp.](#) announced a nationwide recall of approximately 8.4 million Omega brand fire sprinklers manufactured since 1982. The CPSC alleges that Omega sprinklers are defective and could likely fail in a fire. For further information on the Omega sprinkler recall, please call Central Sprinkler at: (800) 896-5685.

Although the Omega sprinkler recall is primarily directed to properties located in the United States, UL understands that Central Sprinkler is planning a voluntary program for properties located outside the United States. Persons interested in that program should contact Central Sprinkler's Omega Customer Services Dept. at: (800) 927-5291.

[Go back to UL's Omega Sprinkler information](#)

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NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 1998

CONTACT: Russ Rader

(301) 504-0580 Ext. 1166

Central Contact: Anne Buchanan

(800) 775-8718

Release # 99-008

CPSC, Central Sprinkler Recall Omega Fire Sprinklers; Settle Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler announced today the nationwide recall of approximately 8.4 million Omega brand fire sprinklers manufactured since 1982 by Central Sprinkler Corp. and its subsidiary, Central Sprinkler Co., of Lansdale, Pa. CPSC alleges that Omegas are defective and could likely fail in a fire. This recall announcement follows the resolution of the lawsuit filed by the Commission staff against these companies on March 3, 1998.

CPSC alleges that, on average, between 30 and 40 percent of Omegas removed from various locations across the country for testing failed to activate as they should. In some buildings, all Omegas tested failed to activate. CPSC is warning consumers that they are at risk of bodily injury or death and should have Omegas replaced as soon as possible. CPSC is urging consumers to take immediate action to determine whether the buildings where they live and work are equipped with Omegas, and if so, to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline to participate in the recall. Properly functioning fire sprinklers save lives when a fire occurs. With the Omega sprinklers, this line of defense may not be there when it is needed most.

CPSC has received reports of Omega sprinklers not functioning in 17 fires. At least four persons suffered injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation. Over \$4.3 million in property damage has been reported. The fires occurred between 1990 and the present in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. In some cases, the sprinkler directly above the fire failed to operate.

Omega fire sprinklers are installed in homes, schools, hospitals, dormitories, nursing homes, prisons, offices, hotels and other buildings as well as federal buildings, including the Smithsonian Museums and the U.S. Capitol, which house many of the country's historical artifacts. Omegas have been or are being removed from many state and federal buildings, including the White House. As part of the settlement agreement, Central has asked Underwriters Laboratories to withdraw its listing of approval for all Omega brand fire sprinklers.

Consumers themselves should be able to determine whether their homes or other buildings are equipped with Omega fire sprinklers. On most models, consumers will be able to see three flat round metal disks stacked one above the other with a small space between each disk. Consumers should not attempt to unscrew the sprinkler or shut down their sprinkler system to determine if they have Omegas. Central will send consumers a packet of information to help them identify the sprinklers

involved.

The recall of the Omega sprinklers includes models referred to or marked as follows:

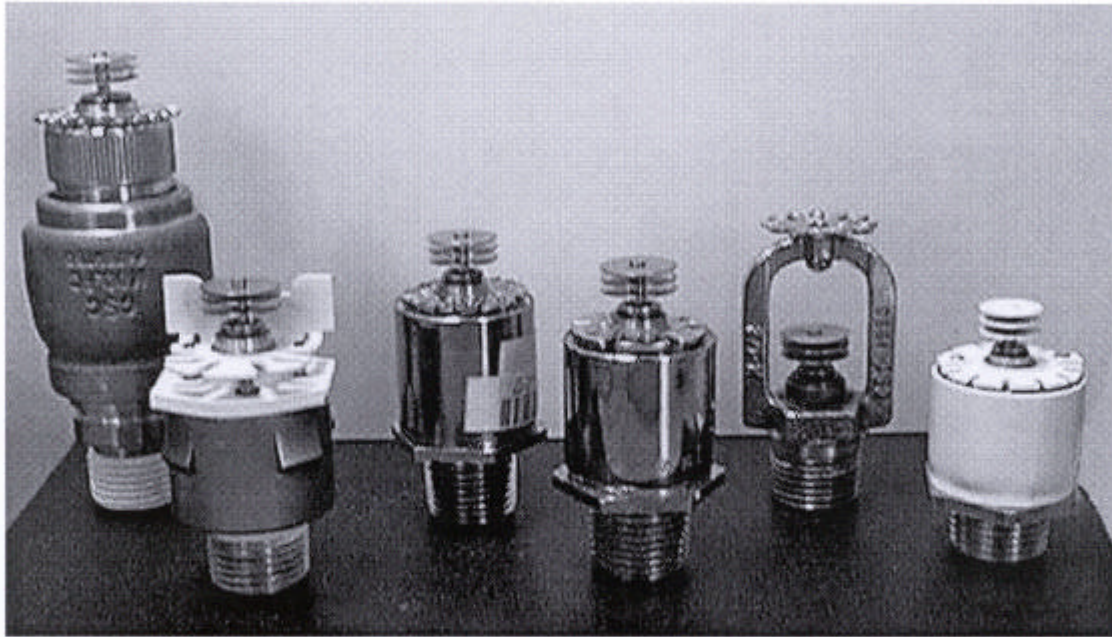
- C1 (or C-1)
- C1A (or C-1A)
- C-1A PRO (or C1-A PRO)
- C1-A PRO QR
- EC-20
- EC-20A
- R-1
- R-1A
- R-1M
- Flow Control (FC, Flow Control-FC)
- Protector-M or M Protector (Upright, Pendent, Sidewall, Sidewall EC)
- HEC-12
- EC-12 RES
- HEC-12 EC
- HEC-12 EC PRO
- HEC-12 ID
- HEC-12 PRO
- HEC-12 PRO QR
- HEC-20
- Prohibitor QR and AC.

Central is offering consumers free replacement glass bulb fire sprinklers and reimbursement toward the cost of having Omega sprinklers removed and replaced. CPSC routinely requires companies to pay the full costs associated with recalls. In this case, Central's reported financial condition reveals that its ability to pay the cost of replacing the Omega sprinklers is limited. Consumers are urged to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline, available 24 hours a day, at (800) 896-5685 or to access the Omega recall website at omegarecall.com to participate in the recall. For consumers to get any monetary reimbursement for installation costs, they must submit a proof of claim and release to Central postmarked by August 1, 1999. Consumers are urged to take immediate action and call today.

Since Omegas may not operate in a fire, it is particularly important that consumers have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. To ensure that the detector's batteries are working, test the detector every month. Consumers also should have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. "Your Home Fire Safety Checklist" is available here in [pdf format](#) or [text format](#), or you can obtain a free copy by writing to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207.



Consumers can also view a [video clip](#) about this recall. It is about 10 megabytes long and the download time depends upon the speed of your Internet connection.



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from the unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information via Internet gopher services at cpsc.gov or report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov.

Omega Fire Sprinkler Settlement and Recall Information

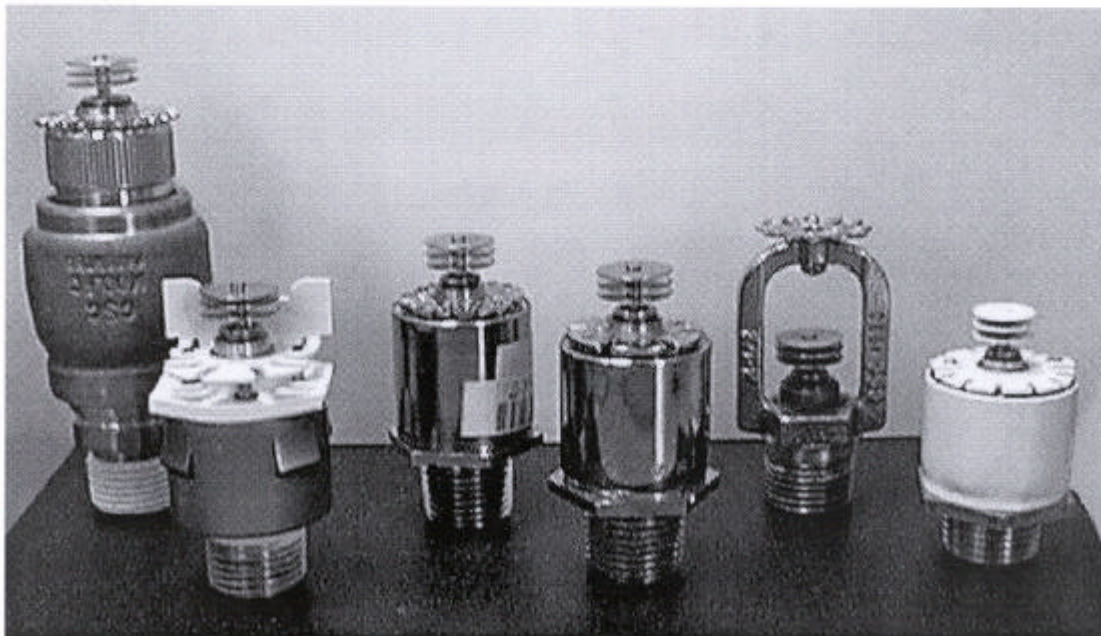
[Omega Identification](#)

[Forms](#)

[Long Form Notice Package](#)

[Sprinkler Contractor News](#)

[Omega Recall Fact Sheet](#)



Welcome to the Omega Recall Web Site. This site contains important product safety information about Omega brand fire sprinklers that are being recalled by Central Sprinkler Company in conjunction with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. We urge you to read the following information carefully, especially if your home or office building contains fire sprinklers.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

RECALL OF CENTRAL SPRINKLER'S OMEGA BRAND FIRE SPRINKLERS

To Consumer/Homeowner:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler recently announced the recall of all Omega fire sprinklers. According to CPSC, these sprinklers are defective and could likely fail in a fire, which could result in bodily injury or death.

Please read the entire attached packet of information carefully. It is very important for you to determine if Omega sprinklers are installed in your home or building. The notice contains product information regarding the recall with the CPSC, as well as the preliminary settlement Central has reached with several private class action lawsuits. Please refer to the product information sheets which explain how to identify Omega sprinklers. Because sprinklers can be difficult to identify, we urge you to check with your architect, builder, sprinkler contractor, plumber, homeowners' association or property manager.

This recall is available to all owners of Omega fire sprinklers. To participate in the recall you must complete the enclosed Proof of Claim Form and Waiver and Release of Claims Form as soon as possible and return them to Central Sprinkler at the address indicated in the Proof of Claim Form. Central Sprinkler will mail you a free replacement sprinkler for every Omega sprinkler owned.

In order to receive replacement sprinklers and to qualify for reimbursement toward installation costs, you must complete the Proof of Claim Form and the accompanying Waiver and Release of Claims Form and return them to Central Sprinkler, postmarked by August 1, 1999. Although it is important to provide complete information, please submit your Proof of Claim Form postmarked by August 1, 1999, even if you cannot provide complete responses to all the questions. In order to receive reimbursement toward installation costs, you must complete and return the Verification Form within 365 days after you receive your replacement sprinklers. Those owners filing a Proof of Claim and Waiver and Release of Claims Forms postmarked after August 1, 1999 but before November 1, 2001, still qualify to receive replacement sprinklers (though not reimbursement). The recall terms may also provide benefits to those who have already replaced Omegas between May 1, 1996 and the effective date of the Commission's Order.

Please read all of this information carefully, as it explains your legal rights and obligations. If you have any questions about how to complete the forms or how to identify an Omega Sprinkler, please call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline at 1-800-927-5291.

Do not delay! Take action today. Until you receive your free replacement sprinklers, you should have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan, an alternative plan and working smoke detectors on every floor of your home, especially near bedrooms.

Omega Identification

Forms

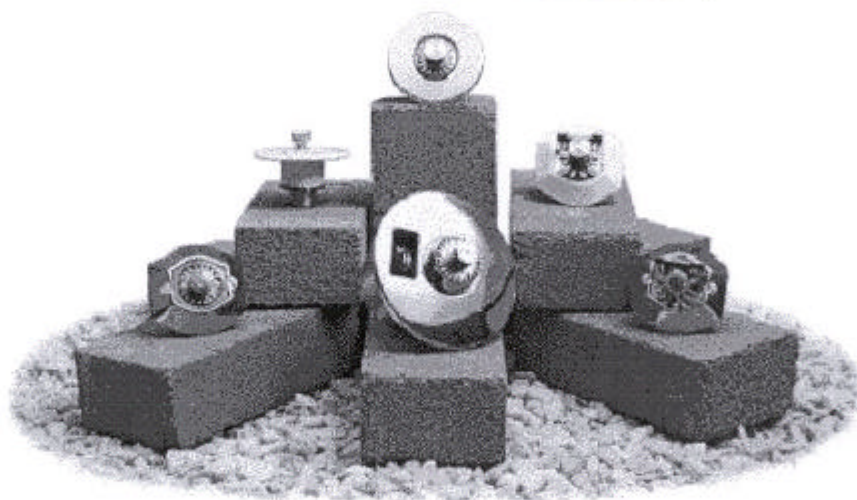
Long Form Notice Package

[Home Page](#)

CENTRAL

Omega

Sprinklers



Identification



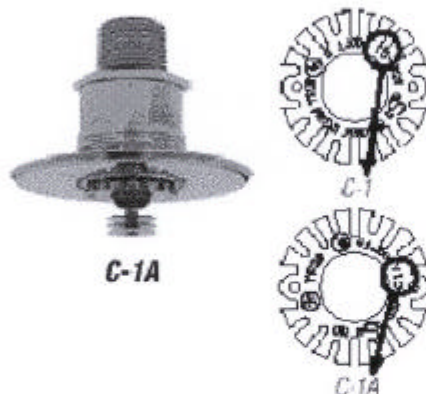
Central Sprinkler Company

451 North Cerron Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446

To identify any OMEGA™ sprinkler, from other types of sprinklers, read the writing on the deflector. The deflectors are shown next to the sprinkler and the model is circled. If there is any doubt as to the type or model of sprinkler, note any other nomenclature or markings on the deflector and sprinkler, and contact Central Sprinkler at (800) 927-5291

C-1 or C-1A

Quick Response Commercial Pendant



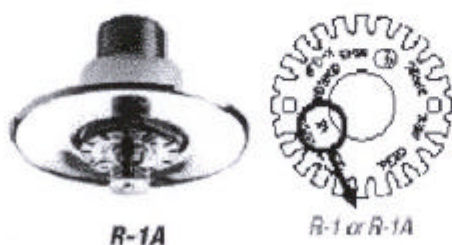
EC-20 or EC-20A

*Residential, Extended Coverage,
Quick Response Extended Coverage, Pendant*



R-1A or R-1

Residential, Pendant



R-1M

Residential, Pendant



Flow Control-FC

On-Off Pendant



Flow Control-FC

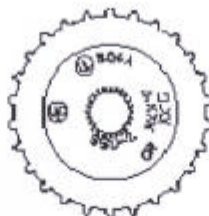
On-Off Flush



Protector M Upright



Protector M Upright



Protector M

Protector M Pendent



Protector M Pendent

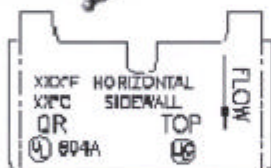


Protector M

Protector M Sidewall



**Protector M
Horizontal Sidewall**



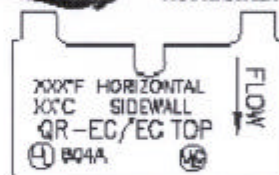
HEC-12

Quick Response, Sidewall

Protector M Sidewall EC



**Protector M
Ext. Coverage
Horizontal Sidewall**



HEC-12 EC

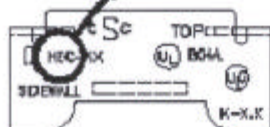
Extended Coverage Quick Response Sidewall

HEC-12 Res

Residential, Sidewall



HEC-12



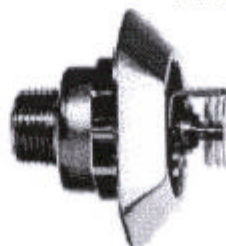
HEC-12



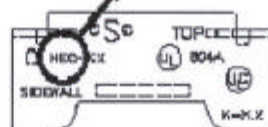
HEC-12
Residential

HEC-20

Extended Coverage and
Extended Coverage Quick Response Sidewall



HEC-12



HEC-12 EC



HEC-20

Prohibitor QR

Institutional Pendant



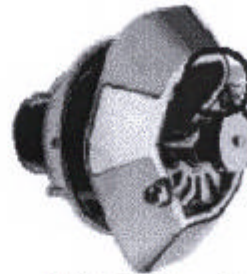
PRO QR Pendant



C1-A PRO QR

Prohibitor QR

Institutional Sidewall



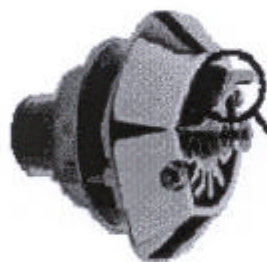
PRO QR Sidewall



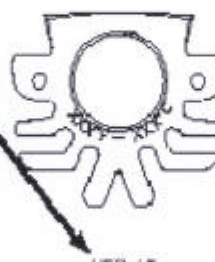
HEC-12

HEC-12 PRO

Institutional Sidewall



HEC-12 PRO



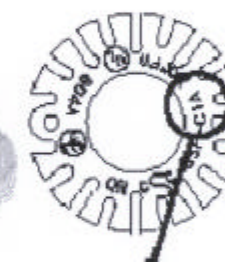
HEC-12

C-1A PRO

Institutional Pendant



C1-A PRO



C1-A PRO

AC

*Adjustable Concealed**



AC

* Many Concealed Sprinklers look alike with the cover plates on, therefore the plate should be removed and deflector markings viewed.