

JOINING THE FIGHT AGAINST HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

Whilst essential for public safety, fire extinguishers situated in hospitals, and other buildings housing health service provision, can themselves pose a threat to health and safety. A unique solution has been developed in the form of anti-microbial protective storage cabinets by Jo Bird & Co Ltd, the UK's leading designer and manufacturer of technically advanced fire and safety product storage solutions.

A new version of the company's SOS101 single extinguisher cabinet has been launched featuring anti-microbial properties specifically for use in areas where the risks of infection are potentially high and difficult to control. Exposed extinguishers can be a safety hazard through accidental dislodgement or vandalism, whilst any microbial contamination can be difficult to remove. Placing fire extinguishers in anti-microbial protective cabinets, which kill 99.9% of bacteria coming into contact with them and are easily cleaned, overcomes both of these problems. It also ensures that the appliances are tamper-resistant and can be easily visually checked for operability.

The SOS101AM is a wall mounted cabinet and uses a combination of a durable red ABS back, a clear polycarbonate door and polypropylene hinges and door catch. Special glass encased silver ions incorporated into the plastic provide the anti-bacterial properties and eliminate the risk of any spread of infection. The silver ions provide lifetime anti-bacterial properties and also act as an anti-fungal agent.

The SOS200, a larger version of the SOS101, is already in use as a defibrillator cabinet and was recently specified by Dundee Council for the town's municipal leisure pools. The incorporation of anti-microbial properties, initially in the extinguisher cabinets, is seen by the company as widening its appeal particularly in hospitals, health centres, nursing and residential homes, nurseries and hospices. Nick Atkins, the company's Business Development Manager, commenting on the product's introduction, said "Our new product development team has harnessed the power of modern plastics technology to provide another ground-breaking product which is not only unique but which we believe has a significant part to play in the fight against hospital acquired infections and the pursuit of improved hygiene throughout the healthcare sector".

For more information or photographs please contact either;

Nick Atkins at Jo Bird & Co Ltd on +44 (0) 1278 785546 or email - nick.atkins@jobird.co.uk

Or Richard Storey, RSL Associates on +44 (0) 1749 870652 or email - richard@rslassociates.co.uk

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Editor's note. Jo Bird is a leading designer and manufacturer of storage solutions for protecting fire and safety equipment in offshore, marine, industrial and commercial locations. The company's two major brands, Firebird and ToughStore are internationally recognised for their class leading design and performance. Manufactured in Somerset, UK, around 50% of Jo Bird's products are supplied to customers outside the UK through a network of distributor.