

PROPOSAL NUMBER: ASRD-2012-01

DESCRIPTION: Developing an operational product evaluation methodology

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ISSUE: Currently, there is no process in place that evaluates the operational performance and effectiveness of water-enhancing gels and other wetting agents.

BACKGROUND: Provincial agencies often receive requests from the private sector to use water-enhancers, wetting agents, and foams in wildland firefighting. The current process is to refer these companies to the Qualified Product List (QPL) administered in Canada under CIFFC. As FPInnovations noted in a previous study, the Canadian list relies heavily on the USFS evaluation process, which evaluates products for chemical make-up and environmental impacts, but does not evaluate operational performance.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a methodology to evaluate the operational performance of water-enhancing products and other wetting agents.

APPROACH: Conduct a literature review on existing product evaluation processes

The evaluation methodology will consider:

- Mix ratios
- Application rates
- User feedback
- Product effectiveness against wildfire