

## **JOINT MANANGEMENT/ UNION STATEMENT**

### **BA CYLINDERS - APPROVED FILLERS**

Union officials and Fire Service management representatives have met several times over recent weeks to discuss the introduction of Approved Fillers. Agreement has been reached to implement Approved Fillers on the following basis:

1. It is acknowledged that the filling of BA Cylinders has traditionally been work undertaken by certain firefighters as part of their normal duties.
2. Although the introduction of the requirement for BA Fillers to attain the status of an Approved Filler under the Compressed Gas Regulations will not alter the work that is undertaken, it does increase responsibility and require external certification to carry out this work.
3. In recognition of this external certification, a one-off payment of \$70:00 (gross) will be paid when a firefighter satisfactorily completes the requirements to become an Approved Filler and is certified as such. As this certification must be revalidated every five years, a further payment will be paid on re-certification.
4. When a firefighter accepts assessment as an Approved Filler, is certified as such, and receives the one-off payment, he/she can be required by the Fire Service to fill BA Cylinders whilst on duty.
5. This agreement will be documented in the Collective Employment Agreement negotiations in 2006 and applies only to personnel covered by the Collective Employment Agreement.
6. Firefighters who are approached by their Chief Fire Officer and agree to become Approved Fillers are to fully cooperate with the training and assessment necessary to become an Approved Filler.
7. Guidance will be provided from National Headquarters on the location and number of Approved Fillers to be assessed for the balance of this financial year. It is acknowledged that there will be limitations on the number of Approved Fillers this year due to financial constraints.
8. The Fire Service will not require Approved Fillers to supervise unqualified personnel to fill BA Cylinders on a regular or planned basis. Only an approved filler is authorised to complete the relevant documentation when filling cylinders.
9. Holding an Approved Filler certificate will not form any criteria for Station placement or for undertaking overtime in any particular location.