

Fire extinguishing system

5 **[0001]** The present invention concerns a fire extinguishing system for distributing an extinguishing medium, wherein such a fire extinguishing system at least comprises:

- means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium,
- at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium,
- 10 - transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium.

In that case in accordance with the known state of the art the transport means (3) are at least partially in the form of mild steel metal
15 pipe.

In that case the pipe friction loss in pipes is defined in accordance with the Hazen-Williams formula (1) with

$$P = 6.05 \cdot 10^5 \cdot L \cdot Q^{1.85} \cdot C^{(-1.85)} \cdot d^{(-4.87)}$$

wherein:

- 20 P = pressure drop in the pipe, in bars,
- Q = through-flow rate through the pipe, in l/min,
- d = mean inside diameter of the pipe, in mm,
- C = constant for type and condition of the pipe, and
- L = equivalent length of pipe and shaped portions, in m.

25 **[0002]** In principle the calculation of pressure drops in pipes on a predetermined pipe length is possible in particular using the Darcy-Weisbach equation which admittedly however is generally extremely complicated to use. For that reason the use of the empirical Hazen-Williams formula (1) has gained acceptance generally and in particular for the
30 design and calculation of sprinkler installations.

[0003] The inventors initially found themselves confronted with the task of a monetary improvement in the design and operation of sprinkler installations. Particularly the aspect of the task of monetary improvement

in the operation of sprinkler installations involves the recognised problem that, in sprinkler installations, after many months after having been brought into operation, leakages in the couplings as the typical connections of transport means (3) in the form of metal pipes can sometimes occur, which ultimately leads to repair operations and insurance damage and thus a significant increase in costs within operation of sprinkler installations. Admittedly the last-mentioned problem can be overcome by galvanised metal pipes in fittings, but a solution which is satisfactory in all respects and which in particular can also be financially viable above all for larger sprinkler installations has however still to be achieved in spite of numerous approaches, especially as it is precisely that galvanised pipes are to be assessed from a rather critical point of view in regard to operational problems.

[0004] The inventors tried in their considerations to also use the mathematical dependencies of values in the Hazen-Williams formula (1). Therein in particular a relationship between the pressure drop in the pipe, $P[\text{bar}]$, and the dimension-less constant C is of interest. In accordance with the information in the German Standard DIN EN 12845, Version 07/2009, in that respect the values of following Table 1 apply:

Table 1:

Type of pipe	C-value
Cast iron	100
Ductile cast iron	110
Steel, black – this corresponds to mild steel in accordance with the present invention	120
Galvanised steel	120
Centrifugal concrete	130
Cement-clad cast iron	130
Non-rusting steel – this is high-quality steel	140
Copper	140
Reinforced glass fibre	140

[0005] The inventors finally realised that both aspects of the underlying problem can be solved by means of a fire extinguishing system for distributing an extinguishing medium, wherein such a fire extinguishing system has at least:

- means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium,
- at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium,
- transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium,

wherein the transport means (3) are at least partially in the form of mild steel metal pipe,

wherein the pipe friction loss in pipes is defined in accordance with the Hazen-Williams formula (1) with

$$P = 6.05 \cdot 10^5 \cdot L \cdot Q^{1.85} \cdot C^{(-1.85)} \cdot d^{(-4.87)}$$

wherein:

P = pressure drop in the pipe, in bars,

Q = through-flow rate through the pipe, in l/min,

d = mean inside diameter of the pipe, in mm,

C = constant for type and condition of the pipe, and

L = equivalent length of pipe and shaped portions, in m.

[0006] The fire extinguishing system proposed here is characterised in that:

- the transport means (3) which are at least partially in the form of mild steel metal pipe have an at least inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating, and

- the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is adapted to ensure a value for C in a range of 125 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned.

The value C in that respect refers to the transport means (3) which are in the form of a mild steel metal pipe and which have the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating characterising the invention.

[0007] According to the inventors' realisation which is essential to the invention an inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating for the transport means (3) which at least partly are in the form of a mild steel metal pipe is singly and solely suitable for ensuring for the constant C a value in a range of 125 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned and – preferably – equally also within a period of use of a

year and quite particularly preferably also within a period of use of five years after commissioning of the fire extinguishing system. Ensuring a value for C in the range characterising the invention and still further in the preferred ranges of the invention presented here, on the basis of the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating which is provided in that way, affords a completely even and non-porous sealing means in respect of the insides of the metal pipes (3), which no longer has the extinguishing medium which is passed through the metal pipes (3) infiltrating therebeneath, even over many years, and that applies even for the ends of the metal pipes (3), which are brought together in the couplings.

[0008] Quite particularly preferably the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating for the transport means (3) which at least partly are in the form of a mild steel metal pipe is suitable, for the constant C, for ensuring a value in a range of 135 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned and – preferably – equally also within a period of use of a year and quite particularly preferably also within a period of use of five years after commissioning of the fire extinguishing system.

[0009] In principle pipes comprising centrifugal concrete, cement-clad cast iron, high-quality steel, copper and reinforced glass fibre are also suitable at least to a limited extent for ensuring a value in the claimed ranges for the constant C, but for different reasons they are ruled out in terms of their surface-coverage use entirely:

- pipes of centrifugal concrete or cement-clad cast iron have a wall which is much too thick and related thereto a weight which is much too great so that their surface-coverage in the sense of a usual use in buildings is already impossible for that reason alone. For the above-mentioned reasons of weight and by virtue of their excessively low flexural index pipes of centrifugal concrete or cement-clad cast iron can be considered exclusively in the ground as transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium;

- pipes of high-quality steel, copper and reinforced glass fibre are admittedly possible in principle, but they are much too high in price and

that has not gained acceptance in the market. In addition pipes of reinforced glass fibre and generally plastic are combustible or melt at high temperatures, which limits their use to regions involving a low burning loading and/or to being laid within cast concrete slabs. All three types of pipe which are possible in principle are not suitable for solving the underlying problem of the invention.

[0010] The invention is practically not limited in respect of the nominal size for the transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for application of the extinguishing medium, in particular and preferably the mild steel metal pipes for providing the transport means (3) should be of a nominal width in a range of DN 32 to DN 250, which corresponds to the common pipe nominal widths of the main conduit [(3), a], for example in the form of riser conduits, of the fire extinguishing system proposed here, by way of possible secondary distribution pipes [(3),b], for example in the form of distributor conduits, as far as the sprinkler connection pipes [(3),c], for example in the form of branches (branch conduits). In a quite particularly preferred configuration the mild steel metal pipes for providing the transport means (3) are to be of a nominal width in a range of DN 32 to DN 65, which corresponds to the pipe nominal widths of usual secondary distribution pipes to the sprinkler connection pipes.

[0011] Without being restricted in this respect in accordance with the present invention the following examples for the means (2) for application of the extinguishing medium are deemed to be particularly preferred:

- sprinklers, in particular in the many configurations forming part of the state of the art,
- nozzles,
- simple pipe openings,

and comparable components and devices for the issue and distribution of the extinguishing medium.

[0012] The fire extinguishing system proposed here is intended for the use of extinguishing media, wherein the medium is preferably chosen from the

list including: water, foam, water-foam mixture, gas and chemical extinguishing agents.

[0013] In particular CO₂ and the noble gas argon are suitable for the extinguishing medium gas, while for the chemical extinguishing agents in particular those as are known at the date of filing of this specification are selected from:

- the trade name FM-200[®] from DuPont of Geneva, Switzerland, and
- the trade name Novec[™] 1230 from 3M of Neuss, Germany.

[0014] In particular the following:

- 10 - water film-forming foaming agent, for example 'Extensid AFFF 1%-3%' from 'Fabrik chemische Präparate Richard Sthamer GmbH & Co KG' of Hamburg, Germany, and also 'Fomtec AFFF' from 'Rosenbauer International AG' of Leonding, Austria,
- alcohol-resistant foaming agent, for example 'Extensid AFS LV 1%-3%' from 'Fabrik chemische Präparate Richard Sthamer GmbH & Co KG' of Hamburg, Germany, and also 'Fomtec ARC' from 'Rosenbauer International AG' of Leonding, Austria,
- 15 - protein foaming agent, for example 'Promax Spezial' from 'Minimax GmbH & Co KG' of Bad Oldesloe, Germany
- 20 are deemed to be preferred as the foam, in the water-foam mixtures those types of foam are used in conjunction with water, wherein a ratio related to % by volume:

water: foam

in a range of 100:1 to 100:3 is deemed to be particularly preferred.

25 **[0015]** A suitable frost protection agent can be added to the extinguishing medium, selected from the list including: water and water-foam mixture, to avoid splitting or blowout and/or damage

- of the means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium, and in particular
- 30 - the transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium

at low temperatures of use, preferably in a temperature range of 0 to –25°C, quite particularly preferably in a temperature range of 0 to –28°C. In particular the following are deemed to be preferred as frost protection agents:

- 5 - glycol-based frost protection agents,
- polypropylene glycol-based frost protection agents, and
- calcium chloride-based frost protection agents.

[0016] If water or a water-foam mixture is used as the extinguishing medium then preferably a single water supply presents itself for providing that extinguishing medium, and when the situation involves demands of higher reliability even a double water supply. The single or double water supply can be replaced or quite particularly preferably supplemented by at least one storage component for the extinguishing medium, selected from the list including: an open reservoir, a high-level tank, intermediate and supply containers. In that respect preferably the at least one storage component selected from the list including: high-level tanks and intermediate and supply containers, preferably has an inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating quite particularly preferably consisting of concrete and/or plastic.

[0017] The fire extinguishing system proposed here for distributing an extinguishing medium in all embodiments and variants disclosed herein can be both in the form of a wet sprinkler installation in which the transport means (3) is permanently filled with a or with the extinguishing medium, or also equally in the form of a dry sprinkler installation in which the transport means (3) are usually filled with a gas and the extinguishing medium is transported therethrough only in the situation of use. Both the above configurations of the fire extinguishing system proposed here are deemed to be preferred in accordance with the present invention.

[0018] In principle many different coatings for the transport means (3) are conceivable like for example anodic and also cathodic dip-paint coating and Parkerising, with which the feature that is essential to the invention 'for ensuring a value for C in a range of 125 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned' can be fulfilled. After many intensive

considerations and tests linked to those considerations a particularly preferred configuration of the present invention of a novel fire extinguishing system is implemented if the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating of the transport means (3) which are at least partly in the form of mild steel metal pipe is afforded by the Aquence™ method, in particular by means of the Aquence™ method of the 900 series.

[0019] The Aquence™ method developed by Henkel of Düsseldorf, Germany forms a coating here at the inside of the transport means (3) which are in the form of metal pipes, on a chemical basis, in which FeF_3 iron fluoride which is supplied in the form of a solution in fundamental fashion and with a view to the invention presented here provides for a liberation of Fe^{2+} ions at the inside surface of the metal pipes, which bond to paint particles which are equally supplied in the form of the foregoing solution and which are then again deposited at the inside surface of the metal pipes. In the course of a prolonged deposition process over a period of a preferred length of 4 to 8 minutes, quite particularly preferably over a period of a length of 5 to 7 minutes, a coating is built up in that way, of a layer thickness in a preferred range of 15 to 28 μm , quite particularly preferably in a range of 21 to 27 μm . With the particularly preferred Aquence™ method of the 900 series an epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is produced in the above-described manner.

[0020] The inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating which is quite particularly preferably constituted by a continuous through flow with the solution in particular in accordance with the Aquence™ method of the 900 series ensures to a particularly persuasive degree that a value for C is guaranteed in a range of 125 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned and even in a range of 135 to 150 within a period of use of 5 years. A further substantial advantage of an epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating formed in that way is its resistance to:

- the preferred extinguishing media selected from the list including: water, foam, water-foam mixture, gas and chemical extinguishing agents, and

- the extinguishing agent additives, in which respect in particular the preferred frost protection agents are meant here.

[0021] In the numerous tests that preceded this invention it was found that, to build up a sufficiently thick epoxy/acrylic-based Aquence™ coating a continuous flow through the mild steel metal pipes (3) with the solution in accordance with the Aquence™ method of the 900 series using a through-flow speed within a range of 9 m/min to 18 m/min and even better 12 m/min to 15 m/min over a period of a preferred length of 4 to 8 minutes and quite particularly preferably over a period of a length of 5 to 7 minutes is to be ensured, for which reason the specified ranges for the through-flow speed are deemed to be preferred solely and precisely in combination with the through-flow time.

[0022] By virtue of the fact that the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating in accordance with all embodiments proposed here ensures a value for C at least in a range of 125 to 150 the inside of the metal pipes (3) is distinguished by a completely even and non-porous sealing means which even over many years can no longer have the extinguishing medium which is passed through the metal pipes (3) infiltrating therebeneath, for which reason such mild steel metal pipes for providing the transport means (3) can be of a wall thickness which is quite particularly preferably in a range of only still 2.0 mm to 2.5 mm, instead of the 2.6 mm thickness which today is still usual: thicker walls for the transport means (3) for connecting the means (1) for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium are no longer necessary for ensuring the greatest possible level of availability certainty. With the metal pipes (3) remaining of the same outside diameters the inside diameter can thus be increased by 0.2 mm to 1.2 mm.

[0023] In applying the invention proposed here in all the embodiments proposed here the through-flow rate Q through the pipes, in the form of a

mild steel metal pipe with an inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating characterising the invention can be increased by a percentage in a range of 4% to 34%, related to the through-flow rate of galvanised pipes.

5 **[0024]** Figure 1 hereinafter is intended to describe the invention more fully.

[0025] Figure 1 shows the structure in principle of an installation implemented for test purposes and to verify the invention made, that is in the form of a dry sprinkler installation with periodically implemented sprinkler inserts.

10 **[0026]** A branched system of transport means (3) is connected to a means (1) (only diagrammatically indicated) for providing the extinguishing medium, here water, in the form of a single water supply, wherein the transport means (3) include

- a central riser conduit [(3), a]
- 15 - a plurality of distributor conduits [(3), b] branching from the central riser conduit [(3), a], and
- for each distributor conduit [(3), b] a respective plurality of branches or branch conduits [(3), c]. In that respect for the sake of simplicity of the drawing Figure 1 completely shows only one distributor
- 20 conduit [(3), b] and in relation thereto only a few branches [(3), c].

[0027] Each branch [(3), c] has

- at its beginning directed to the distributor conduit [(3), b] and at its end a respective ball valve (5),
- upstream of the ball valve (5) at the end of the branch [(3), c] a
- 25 manometer (6),
- three respective sprinklers as means (2) for applying the extinguishing medium, and
- a plurality of coupling connections (4) for possible individual replacement of each sprinkler (2).

30 **[0028]** In total fitted in the test installation there are thus a total of 60 branches [(3), c] of a respective nominal width of DM 32 and of a respective wall thickness of 2.6 mm, five branches [(3), c] of mild steel metal pipes with an epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion

protection coating. In that arrangement that inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating in all of those five branches [(3), c] is of a thickness in a range of 15 to 27 μm , in the branches [(3), c] of the particularly preferred variant the thickness is in a narrower range of 21 to 27 μm . In all of those five branches [(3), c] the epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is produced by means of the AquenceTM method of the 900 series. A further 49 branches [(3), c] of the test installation are constructed with galvanised mild steel metal pipes, the remaining six branches [(3), c] have mild steel metal pipes without any internal coating.

10 **[0029]** After a 12 month test time with constantly changing operating conditions and severe outside climate fluctuations from moist-warm through dry-hot to dry-cold and wet-cold the branches [(3), c] of mild steel metal pipes with the epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating exhibit scarcely any corrosion at the respective branch ends while surface corrosion cannot be detected at all. All threads on the
15 respective coupling connections (4) after the end of the test time are also still completely sealed and exhibit in principle no corrosion attacks. In contrast both the galvanised mild steel metal pipes and also the mild steel metal pipes without any internal coating at the branch ends and towards
20 the coupling connections (4) have a marked rusting attack in the pipe interior, even if slight but clearly detectable, which leads to a marked reduction in the C-values. Only the mild steel metal pipes with the epoxy/acrylic-based inwardly disposed corrosion coating have a value for C of 140 at the end of the 12-month test period, which exactly corresponds
25 to the value at the beginning of the long-term test.

[0030] Thus the realisations deriving from operation of the test installation show on the one hand the great advantages of a fire extinguishing system according to the invention over previous fire extinguishing systems, while on the other hand they also show that, by means of the fire extinguishing
30 system according to the invention, the underlying problems of the invention for achieving a monetary improvement in the design and operation of sprinkler installations can be lastingly solved.

List of references:

- (1) means for providing the extinguishing medium
- (2) means for applying the extinguishing medium
- (3) transport means
- 5 (3), a – riser conduit
- (3), b – distributor conduit
- (3), c – branch (conduit)
- (4) coupling connection
- (5) ball valve
- 10 (6) manometer

CLAIMS

1. A fire extinguishing system for distributing an extinguishing medium, at least comprising:

- means for providing the extinguishing medium,
- at least one means for applying the extinguishing medium,
- transport means for connecting the means for providing the extinguishing medium to the at least one means for applying the extinguishing medium,

wherein the transport means are at least partially in the form of mild steel metal

pipe,

wherein the pipe friction loss in pipes is defined in accordance with the Hazen-Williams formula with

$$P = 6.05 \cdot 10^5 \cdot L \cdot Q^{1.85} \cdot C^{(-1.85)} \cdot d^{(-4.87)}$$

wherein:

P = pressure drop in the pipe, in bars,

Q = through-flow rate through the pipe, in l/min,

d = mean inside diameter of the pipe, in mm,

C = constant for type and condition of the pipe, and

L = equivalent length of pipe and shaped portions, in m,

wherein

- the transport means which are at least partially in the form of mild steel metal pipe have an at least inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating,

- the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is adapted to ensure a value for C in a range of 125 to 150 when the fire extinguishing system is commissioned, and

the inwardly disposed coating is composed of paint particles supplied in a solution, said particles being deposited at the inside surface of the metal pipes under liberation of Fe^{2+} ions by supplying FeF_3 , iron fluoride in a solution.

2. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,
wherein the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is adapted to ensure a value for C in a range of 125 to 150 within a period of use of 5 years.
3. A fire extinguishing system according to one of claims claim 1 and 2,
wherein the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is adapted to ensure a value for C in a range of 135 to 150 upon commissioning of the fire extinguishing system.
4. A fire extinguishing system according to one of claims claim 1 to 3,
wherein the inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating is adapted to ensure a value for C in a range of 135 to 150 within a period of use of 5 years.
5. A fire extinguishing system according to one of claims claim 1 to 4,
wherein the mild steel metal pipe for forming the transport means is of a nominal width in a range of DN 32 to DN 250.
6. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 5,
wherein the mild steel metal pipe for forming the transport means is of a nominal width in a range of DN 32 to DN 65.
7. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 5,
wherein the mild steel metal pipe for forming the transport means is of a wall thickness in a range of 2.0 mm to 2.5 mm.
8. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,

wherein the extinguishing medium is a medium selected from the list including: water, foam, water-foam mixture, gas, chemical extinguishing agents.

9. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,
wherein the means for providing the extinguishing medium include at least one storage component for the extinguishing medium,
wherein the at least one storage component is selected from the list including: open reservoir, high-level tank, intermediate and supply container.

10. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 9,
wherein the at least one storage component selected from the list including: high-level tank and intermediate and supply container, has an inwardly disposed corrosion protection coating of concrete and/or plastic.

11. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,
wherein the water for providing the extinguishing media, selected from the list including: water and water-foam mixture, is from a single water supply.

12. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,
wherein the water for providing the extinguishing media, selected from the list including: water and water-foam mixture, is from a double water supply.

13. A fire extinguishing system according to claim 1,
wherein frost protection agent is added to the extinguishing medium selected from the list including: water and water-foam mixture.