

# No BS Fact Sheet No. 18



## BS5306-3:2009 – Commissioning and Maintenance of Portable Extinguishers

Towards the end of 2009 some changes were implemented to the British Standard regarding the commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers (BS5306-3:2009). The new version of the Standard outlines a number of changes to the procedures required for the servicing of portable extinguishers and advises that inspection is now deemed to be part of the initial commissioning process.

The 'responsible person', referred to in previous versions as the user, now has a number of duties under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO). The 'responsible person' is required to ensure that all extinguishers are fit for purpose and maintained correctly and that those installed meet actual requirements. The Responsible person must ensure that a Competent Person is employed to undertake these tasks.

### What do the changes mean for you?

Below are some general points that will be of interest to persons responsible for contracting out works for the maintenance of portable extinguishers in premises under their control.

- The interval for basic service has been changed from requiring exactly 12 monthly visits and now has a tolerance of one month either side of the last basic service. This is due to the fact that it was almost impossible to visit premises exactly 12 months from the previous appointment.
- The extended service for water, water based or powder should be carried out 5 years from the date it was commissioned or 6 years from date of manufacture; whichever is sooner. For primary sealed powder types it is 10 years from commissioning or 11 from date of manufacture (co2 extinguishers are the same, being at 10 years).
- Plastic head caps should be replaced at the end of an extended service and before reassembly of the extinguisher.
- None of the markings required by EN3 on the extinguisher should be blocked by provider labels/maintenance labels.
- The maintenance label should have full postal address of the service provider and a statement that it has been serviced to BS5306-3.
- The maintenance report MUST include details for the provision of permanent replacements for condemned or missing extinguishers. It should also provide advice if coverage of the building needs improving.

- Any extinguishers manufactured prior to 2002 and which have no CE marking should be condemned. Refurbished extinguishers are exempt.

A certificate of Inspection should include the following:

- Name, full postal address and telephone number of service provider.
- Date of Inspection.
- Service Technicians ID.
- List of extinguishers serviced.
- Signature of Responsible Person.
- Statement advising service has been carried out in accordance with BS5306-3

The above is to assist the 'Responsible Person' in fulfilling their duties under FSO.

If you require further guidance or assistance please contact us at [sanjaysaggar@firesafetycompany.com](mailto:sanjaysaggar@firesafetycompany.com) or telephone us direct on 01748 811992.



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