

No BS Fact Sheet No. 10



ADR Vehicle Safety Legislation

As suppliers of fire extinguishers for the haulage industry, we are often asked to clarify the law regarding exactly what fire extinguishers are required on trucks. So, here are the current requirements for additional safety equipment on vehicles carrying certain dangerous goods. Whereas these requirements previously applied only to new vehicles - effective from 1st January 2008 all ADR vehicles must comply.

The requirements

ADR vehicles over 7.5 tonnes will be required to carry extra fire extinguisher capacity up to a total minimum of 12kg dry powder (or equivalent). This is up from the previous total of 8kg. These vehicles must have a minimum of a 2kg in cab extinguisher, which counts toward the total load space extinguisher capacity of 12kg. One extinguisher must be at least 6kg.

- Clearly marked with the next service date (month, year format). In practise this means using a punched metal or plastic service tag, as adhesive labels will soon fade.
- Installed on the transport units in a way that they are easily accessible to the vehicle crew
- Installed in such a way that the fire extinguishers shall be protected against the effects of the weather so that their operational safety is not affected

What this means

To meet the new requirements qualifying ADR vehicles can install a single 9kg Dry Powder extinguisher in a front or top loading Vehicle Cabinet and employ a 4kg Dry Powder or 2 x 2kg equivalent Class A, B, C extinguishers mounted in the cab. For older vehicles, which currently have 2kg cab extinguishers the ADR requirements are likely to require installing a further vehicle cabinet and 4 or 6kg dry powder extinguisher to meet the 12kg capacity.

The fire extinguishers have to be installed on the transport units in such a way that:

- the crew can get to them easily
- their operational safety is not affected by the weather

In practice, this means housing the extinguishers in purpose made cabinets. These are available in sizes to accommodate up to 9kg/9ltr fire extinguishers. The ADR extinguisher capacity for vehicles 3 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes is 8kg and below 3 tonnes it is 4kg.

Size of vehicle	OLD ADR standard	NEW ADR standard minimum coverage	Must Include
More than 7.5 tonnes	8kg	12kg Dry Powder*	1 x 2kg in cab for cab/engine and 1 extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 6kg
3.5 tonnes – 7.5 tonnes	8kg	8kg Dry Powder*	1 x 2kg in cab for cab/engine and 1 extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 6kg
Up to 3.5 tonnes	4kg	4kg Dry Powder*	1 x 2kg in cab for cab/engine

More help?

Visit the website or call us any time for more help or advice.

www.firesafetycompany.com



Rules for extinguishers

The portable fire extinguishers shall be:

- Kite-marked (or equivalent independent approval) to EN3
- Serviced to national standards (i.e. BS 5306- 3) to guarantee functional safety