BS 5306-3 : 2017 Update

Updates on the best practice to be taken when installing and maintaining portable fire extinguishers.

The standard was updated to reflect changes to both the products themselves and to environmental considerations. Below are the principal changes and what they mean for you:

01 Additions to Terms and Definitions
3.2 Body | 3.3 Body Cover | 3.4 Body Fittings

These terms incorporated in Commission & basic Service procedures

Commissioning and service UPDATED to include the wording ... Table A.1 Action 2 and B.1 Action 2 – ***It is necessary to remove any body cover and it might also be necessary to remove the footstand to enable a full examination of the body.***

Where the engineer identifies an extinguisher that has a body cover the following steps will need to be followed:

1. Discharge the extinguisher
2. Remove the valve / head assembly
3. Remove the foot stand
4. Remove the body cover
5. Inspect the body
6. Reassemble the extinguisher
7. Recharge the extinguisher

02 7.2 Maintenance Label | 7.3 Labelling

Maintenance label update / Corrective Action Required label

- Defective extinguishers should be placed in one of the following categories: "condemned" or "corrective action required".
- Where corrective action is required the extinguisher should have a CAR label attached until such time as the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- There is a new box required on the maintenance label to indicate where CAR is required.

03 10.2.2 g), h), j) Extinguishers which are to be condemned – for any non-metal extinguisher body

Non-metal extinguisher body

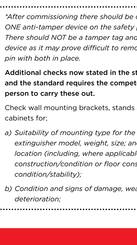
This new heading outlines reasons to condemn a non-metal extinguisher body. Particular attention should be paid to these extinguishers where they are placed in an environment that may potentially weaken the plastic e.g. certain chemical plants. Section 4) *iv) The presence of liquid / chemical material that has, or might have, come into contact with the extinguisher body that is either unidentified or identified as not compatible with the materials.*

04 10.2.4 Obsolete extinguishers

New section under NOTE 1

- This section replaces the previous title of: *Extinguishers for which this standard provides no maintenance schedules.*
- Extinguishers with a non-metal body manufactured prior to the year 2002 replaces 'plastic bodied' extinguishers.

05 11.3 Fire Risk Assessment
(requirement for portable fire extinguishers)



New Section – The competent person should obtain, wherever practicable, the fire risk assessment for the premises at the time of maintenance.

Risk Assessment Update – The engineer must ask to see a copy of the risk assessment before beginning to service the extinguisher. There may be reasons outlined in this risk assessment to justify actions that may be over and above (or vary from) the minimum scale of provision in BS 5306-8 e.g. To allow when it isn't possible to hang extinguishers at 1 or 1.5 metres.

06 11.4 Fire Logbook

Advice for the responsible person re: Fire Logbook

- The competent person should advise the responsible person that a fire logbook should be kept for the purpose of recording all events that occur in respect of the extinguishers.
- This can be in electronic format.

07 Table 1 note h) CO_2 Overhaul Date (title)

BS1968 and BS 1802 require that the stamped date of manufacture or last overhaul be used i.e. not the commissioning date. Intervals for CO_2 extinguishers: BS EN 1802:2002, and BS EN 1968 : 2002 require that the stamped date of manufacture or the last overhaul be used.

- Often its taken from the date of commissioning or the date on the valve. The date of cylinder manufacture is stamped on the shoulder of the cylinder.
- There is no flexibility on the ten year date – e.g. CO_2 stamped April 2010 – it cannot be argued it is fully effective until the end of 2020, it is effective until the end of April 2020. The standard states – *As these extinguishers are classified as "life safety equipment" it is the legal duty of the responsible person to submit this type of extinguisher to an overhaul immediately it is due.*

08 Commissioning Service Updates

Table A.1 Action 16, 17, 18

'After commissioning there should be only ONE anti-tamper device on the safety pin. There should NOT be a tamper tag and a transit device as it may prove difficult to remove the pin with both in place.

Additional checks now stated in the standard and the standard requires the competent person to carry these out.

Check wall mounting brackets, stands and cabinets for;

a) Suitability of mounting type for the extinguisher model, weight, size; and the location (including, where applicable, wall construction/condition or floor construction/ condition/stability);

b) Condition and signs of damage, wear or deterioration;

c) Stability, height, security and integrity of extinguisher mounted in its designated position;

d) Ease of accessibility and removal for use of the extinguisher.

Check that signage is correct for the extinguisher type and rectify if necessary (see BS5306-8 2012).

Provide a written report of the state of maintenance for the extinguishers.

09 Basic Service Update / Weights

Changes to weight tolerances

Weight Check CO_2s

- Remove horn/hose.
- Check that measured mass has lost no greater than 10% of the charge mass when compared to the commissioned mass. e.g. – no more than -0.2kg for a 2kg unit and -0.5kg for a 5kg unit.

Weight Check All Other Extinguishers

- Do NOT remove hose assembly unless instructed to by the manufacturer.
- Check that measured mass has lost no greater than 10% of the nominal charge when compared to the commissioned mass e.g. -0.6kg for a 6 litre unit and -0.9kg for a 9 litre or 9kg unit.

Cartridges

- The weight tolerance used to be +/- 10%
- Now, the current standard states if the weight is under what is marked on the cartridge then reject and dispose the cartridge.

Updates originally prepared by Technical Committee FSH/2, Fire extinguishers and was published by BSI Standards Limited, and came into effect on 31/10/17.

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