

Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

From: The National Office

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New Edition of BS5306-3 : Principal Changes

Summary of additions and main changes in the new version of BS5306-3:2017

This part of BS5306 supersedes BS5306-3: 2009, which is withdrawn.

This full revision includes:-

1. Reference to Fire Risk Assessments
2. Clarification of linkages to BS5306-8
3. Inclusion of references to BS5306-9
4. Addition of Fire Safety logbooks

This part of BS 5306 gives recommendations for the initial commissioning of **all** portable fire extinguishers and schedules for the subsequent maintenance of extinguishers installed in **all** locations. The word all means that all fire extinguishers manufactured to BS EN 3 now have a commissioning and basic/extended service maintenance schedule. This includes extinguishers with a non-metallic body and typically called 'service or maintenance-free'. Note *It is necessary to remove any body cover and it might also be necessary to remove the extinguisher foot-stand to enable a full examination of the body.*

New or changed terms & definitions

3.2 body : part of an extinguisher designed to withstand internal pressure, excluding its accessories but including its permanently attached fittings

3.3 body cover : non pressure-bearing outer case of an extinguisher

3.4 body fittings : those parts of an extinguisher that, under normal working conditions, are permanently attached to the body and are subjected to the working pressure.

Includes: control device(s); hose assembly and/or horns and/or nozzles; head assembly & operating device

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New section 4: Safety precautions for extinguishers

This section emphasises the dangers of working on pressure vessels especially the need for the Responsible Person to be using a competent person as defined by this standard and required by the legislation of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Furthermore, this standard requires that any person undertaking the maintenance of extinguishers needs to be able to recognize the need to be aware of the various H&S acts/regulations, the relevant sections of the FSO and the ability to determine if a unit is fit for service as per clause 10 of this standard.

Section 5 Installation, emphasis that the Responsible Person should be risk assessing the installation of fire extinguishers with (where necessary) the assistance of the competent person.

Commentary on clause 6 – Maintenance intervals

Emphasises that *It is the duty of the responsible person to ensure that extinguishers are maintained regularly by a competent person. Portable fire extinguishers are regarded as 'life saving equipment' and a planned system of maintenance is intended to ensure that the equipment is:-*

- *In an efficient working state (safe)*
- *In working order (reliable)*
- *In good repair (efficient)*
- *Suitable for the hazard (fit for purpose)*

Therefore, it is the duty of the competent person to make sure the responsible Person is aware of the above.

Intervals for CO2 overhaul.

BS1968 and BS 1802 require that the stamped date of manufacture or last overhaul be used i.e. not the date on the valve or the commissioning date e.g if the unit is stamped on the shoulder/body 04/2012 then it should be out of service by the end of 04/2022

Maintenance paperwork needs to cover:

After service, a written report should be provided, giving the status of the extinguishers together with any that are deemed unsuitable for the

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hazard. Together with a statement concerning the responsible person's obligation under fire legislation to provide an appropriate level of fire-fighting equipment at all times.

The Service label

An example of a service label, note the code NM = Not maintained is no longer used. It has been replaced by CAR = Corrective Action Required.

Maintenance Record				
Company name & postal address				
	Date mm/yy	Weight KG	Technician ID	
Commissioning				
Date mm/yy	Service Code	Weight KG	Next service due mm/yy	Technician ID
SERVICE CODES				
BS = Basic Service		ES = Extended Service		O = Overhaul
R = Recharge		CAR = Corrective Action Required		Condemned
Date of last ES/O		Date of next ES/O		
<input style="width: 60px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 60px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		
This extinguisher has been serviced in accordance with the requirements of BS5306-3 and re-charged /refilled to the requirements of BS5306-9 where applicable				
Telephone				
Email				
Web address Logos				

The previous reasons for putting not maintained on an extinguisher are the reasons for Corrective Action Required i.e. customer won't allow a service etc
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An example of a CAR label



Therefore, defective extinguishers should be placed in one of the following categories: “condemned” or “corrective action required”.

Reasons for condemning an extinguisher

This section no longer contains the instruction to condemn a plastic bodied extinguisher: it is replaced by *‘extinguisher with a non-metal body manufactured prior to the year 2002’*.

Additional wording for reasons to condemn:

dents, gouges or any other damage in the **body** or **body cover**

fire damage to the **body**, **body cover** or body fittings;

Plus, there is a whole section giving instructions for dealing with extinguishers with a non-metallic body.

Section 11.3 the Fire Risk Assessment

Requires that ‘The competent person should advise the responsible person that the fire risk assessment in respect of the requirement for portable fire extinguishers should cover at least the following:

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- any potential fire hazard;
- any requirements over and above the minimum scale of provision in BS 5306-8;
- any specified minimum numbers of spare extinguishers.

N.B. The competent person should obtain, wherever practicable, the fire risk assessment for the premises at the time of maintenance.

Section 11.4 Fire Logbook

Requires that, *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.*

Annex A: The Commissioning Service

Initial Weight Check: CO2s

Remove hose/horn and check the weight is no more than **+/- 5% (not 10%)** of the stamped weight on the shoulder

i.e. always 0.1kg for a 2kg unit and 0.25Kg for a 5Kg unit

And:-

Initial Weight Check: All types except CO2s

DO NOT Remove hose assembly unless manufacturer states otherwise.
Check the weight is no more than +/- 5% of the stated mass weight*

e.g. +/- 0.3Kg for 6L contents, +/- 0.45kg for 9kg contents

Safety pin

Break the anti-tamper device (sometimes a manufacturer's transport device*)....remove safety pin, check movement, replace pin with new anti-tamper device i.e. a unit should not be 'double-tagged'.

There is now a requirement: Blow down any hoses or horns to make sure they are clear.

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Annex B: Basic Service

Weight check CO2s

Remove horn/hose. Weight should be within **+/- 10%** of the commissioning weight as written on the label. +/- 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. Weight should be within 10% of the commissioning weight as written on the label.* E.g. -0.6kg for a 6 litre unit and -0.9kg for a 9 litre or 9Kg unit.

*10% of the contents taken from the 'mass' or complete weight.

Environmental Considerations

The standard now states that at extended service "It is considered to be good environmental practice to carry out the service procedures on the extinguisher rather than replace it. "

Gas cartridges

No longer a +/- 10% tolerance of the cartridge weight. If the measured weight is low when compared to the weight stamped on the body, then it is taken out of service and replaced.

Annex D: Recharge Service Procedures

A new section detailing the recharge procedures and references BS5306-9

Commissioning, basic, extended and recharge services all require that a competent person should also check that wall mounting brackets, stands or cabinets for:

Suitability

Location