



Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS SERVICING/TECHNICAL ADVICE/ UPDATE

From: The National Office

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Number 042

We have been advised of an incident involving a plastic extinguisher headcap failing under pressure.

Whilst we are unaware of the precise circumstances involved we would like to remind you that BS5306-3: 2003 Section 8 covers evaluation of fitness for service of extinguishers.

Clause 8.2.1. states that any extinguisher with a major defect that makes it unsafe for use should immediately be made safe and be removed from service.

A defective, or potentially defective headcap will render an extinguisher unsafe. If it is under pressure it should not be discharged in the normal manner. If it is an un-pressurised cartridge type it should be made safe by removing the cartridge.

All extinguisher bodies and headcaps should be closely examined at the commencement of the service procedure. Signs of damage or corrosion will necessitate the extinguisher being made safe.

In addition to obvious damage plastic and rubber components showing signs of severe discolouration due to ultra-violet (sunlight) exposure should be replaced because they are likely to have deteriorated.

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