



# Technical Memo

## I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS INFORMATION/TECHNICAL UPDATE

From The National Office

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Number 14

The Fire Precautions in the Workplace Regulations 1997 amended 1999 require that all staff who may use a fire extinguisher should be suitably trained.

We suggest you may have a duty of care to draw this fact to the attention of your clients at the time the equipment is serviced or supplied. (Simple word of mouth may not be good enough)

This could easily be achieved by having the following note printed on your certificates and supply invoices:

***'To conform to Fire Precautions in the Workplace Regulations 1997, amended 1999 all staff who may have access to these extinguishers should be trained to use them'.***

We also recommend that your service technicians are fully aware of the following parts of BS5306-8 : 2000.

**(a) 6.5.1 & 6.5.2 which prescribes the action to be taken in respect of class 'C' fires where gas leakage is involved.**

You may have a 'duty of care' to ensure your client is advised of the above in respect of extinguishers sited adjacent to the risk described.

**(b) 6.8 Class 'F' fires involving fats & cooking oils.**

Fires involving the above can only be rated as class 'F' & as far as we know the only extinguishers with a class 'F' rating are wet chemical.

It is vital that service technicians are fully conversant with all aspects of this part of the standard, paying particular attention to the need to avoid adding an electrical risk to the danger caused by a fire.

For this reason we strongly recommend you consider only supplying wet chemical extinguishers that have passed the electrical 35kv conductivity test specified in BS EN3 that also has a class 'A' rating (Amerex model 260 or equivalent).

You should also note the need to recommend a fixed system if the risk needs more than two portable extinguishers.

**Advice on Wet Chemical systems is available through the National Office.**

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