



## Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

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Following is information that newer members especially may find useful and relates to **Fire Extinguishers on Mini-buses, Coaches and Buses.**

### Fire Extinguishers

#### E7.1

At least one portable fire extinguisher must be carried on every minibus, bus or coach (its location and mounting is not specified). This requirement is irrespective of seating capacity or vehicle size. The extinguisher must be maintained in efficient working order and be readily available for use at all times.

The extinguisher must contain water, foam or halon (and be marked to show that it contains halon), dry powder is not permitted. Since 1992, CPT has recommended that operators should phase out halon extinguishers (due to environmental and safety concerns), replacing missing or defective units with water or Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF).

The extinguisher must have a minimum test fire rating of 8A or 21B.

The extinguisher must comply with BS 5423 (1977, 1980 or 1987), EN 3 (the equivalent European standard) or another correspondence standard. It must be clearly marked with the standard number.

#### ENFORCEMENT

The vehicle will fail its annual test if the extinguisher is missing, incorrect type, inaccessible, discharged or in obviously poor condition. If any of these fault conditions are found during a roadside check, an inspection notice will be issued.

There is no legal requirement that an extinguisher must be fitted with a pressure gauge. Gauges, where fitted, will only give correct pressure readings at precise ambient conditions and must not therefore be used by enforcement officers to determine the condition of an extinguisher.

#### RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment, Use and Certification) Regulations 1981 (s) 35 as amended by Statutory instruments 1989: 2359 and 1995: 305.

**The document has been left 'as published' by the PCT in 2007 therefore I haven't updated the obvious i.e. Halon should not be used and the 5423 standard referred to should be BS5306-3 :2009**

**Technical Memo 31 refers to Fire Extinguishers on boats.**

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