

Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

From: The National Office

Date: Oct 2019

Number 93 Fire Extinguishers on Minibuses, Coaches and Buses

n.b. this an update of tech memo 73 which is withdrawn. The following also applies to (stretched) limousines with more than 8 seating positions.

Extinguishers

At least one portable fire extinguisher must be carried on every minibus, coach or bus (a minimum of two if the vehicle is wheelchair accessible). This requirement is irrespective of seating capacity or vehicle size. The extinguisher's location and mounting are not specified; however, it is preferable to make sure they are secured e.g. with a transport bracket. This helps protect both the extinguisher and the passengers from 'loose' extinguishers.

The extinguisher must be maintained in efficient working order and be readily available for use at all times.

The extinguisher **MUST** contain water or foam, **NOT** powder, and have a minimum test rating of 8A or 21B.

The extinguisher must comply with BS EN 3, have a CE mark and be clearly marked with the standard number.

Enforcement

The vehicle will fail its annual test if the extinguisher is; missing, the incorrect type, inaccessible, discharged or in an 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 and the following is contained in the PSV inspection manual 2018 "Where a gauge is fitted to a fire extinguisher the reading shown must **NOT** be used to determine the condition of the extinguisher".

Sources: 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.

PSV inspection manual 2018

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (s) 42

Visual inspection by the Responsible Person e.g. the person in charge of vehicle.

It is recommended that the “Responsible Person” (who is the technicians’ customer) carries out regular visual inspections of their extinguishers at intervals of at least weekly to check that the extinguisher:-

- (a) is (with due regard to possible vandalism or theft) correctly and securely located in the designated place.
- (b) is unobstructed and visible.
- (c) Has operating instructions that are clean and legible and face outwards.
- (d) has not been operated and is not obviously damaged or has any missing parts.
- (e) pressure gauge (if fitted) is reading within operational and safety limits.
- (f) seals and tamper indicators are not damaged or missing.
- (g) Is receiving regular maintenance to BS5306-3 by a competent person

It is recommended that the Responsible Person should record the results (e.g. in a fire logbook) of these visual inspections and arrange for corrective action, where necessary by a competent person.