

Australian Standard[®]

**Portable fire extinguishers —
Guide to servicing**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 January 1989 and published on 14 April 1989.

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Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales
Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia
Commonwealth Fire Board
Department of Consumer Affairs, New South Wales
Department of Defence
Department of Housing and Construction
Department of Industrial Relations & Employment, New South Wales
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standard Australia's Committee on Fire Extinguishers to provide a guide to the servicing of portable fire extinguishers as a companion document to AS 1851, *Maintenance of fire protection equipment, Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers*, which includes regular inspection, pressure testing, recharging, and general servicing.

Detailed information relating to specific types of extinguishers, and recommended replacement materials and parts should be obtained from the extinguisher manufacturer.

Some information is recorded on the extinguisher label or nameplate which should be read at the time of servicing to ensure that correct maintenance and recharging procedures are applied.

The purpose of a well planned and well executed maintenance programme is to afford maximum probability that an extinguisher will operate properly between the intervals established for maintenance in the environment to which it is exposed and will not constitute a potential hazard to persons in its vicinity or to operators or servicing personnel.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Portable fire extinguishers — Guide to servicing

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This Standard provides a general guide to inspection and servicing of portable fire extinguishers. This Standard applies to all types of portable fire extinguishers manufactured in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard.

Details of servicing equipment and tools are given in Appendix A.

1.2 APPLICATION. All maintenance and servicing of portable fire extinguishers shall comply with the requirements of AS 1851.1, and, wherever possible, with the recommendation of the manufacturer of the extinguisher.

1.3 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS. The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1840	Water (soda acid) type portable fire extinguishers*
1843	Foam (chemical) type portable fire extinguishers*
1846	Portable fire extinguishers—Powder type
1847	Portable fire extinguishers—Carbon dioxide type
1848	Portable fire extinguishers—Halon type
1851	Maintenance of fire protection equipment
1851.1	Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers
2030	SAA Gas Cylinders Code
2030.1	Part 1: Cylinders for compressed gases other than acetylene
2337	Gas cylinder test stations
2484	Fire—Glossary of terms relating to fire tests
2484.2	Part 2: Fire protection and firefighting equipment
2706	Numerical values—Rounding and interpretation of limiting values

Attention is drawn to the following related documents:

AS	
1841	Portable fire extinguishers—Water (gas container) type
1842	Portable fire extinguishers—Water (stored pressure) type
2444	Portable fire extinguishers—Foam (gas container) type
1845	Portable fire extinguishers—Foam (stored pressure) type

1850	Portable fire extinguishers—Classification, rating and fire testing
2444	Portable fire extinguishers—Selection and location

1.4 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions in AS 2484.2 and those below apply.

1.4.1 Extinguishing agent—a non-flammable agent used to control fire.

1.4.2 Inspection—the examination of extinguisher(s) to determine whether the extinguisher is of correct working order and condition, or requires servicing, i.e. test discharging, hydrostatic testing, and recharging.

1.4.3 Maintenance—a schedule of inspection and servicing for portable fire extinguishers. Maintenance is a thorough check of an extinguisher, intended to give maximum assurance that it will work and operate effectively and safely.

1.4.4 Recharging—replacement of the extinguishing agent(s) and, in certain types of extinguishers, the expellant gas.

1.4.5 Repair—refurbishment of extinguishers or extinguisher parts.

1.4.6 Servicing—all work required to maintain an extinguisher in effective condition. It includes all inspections, maintenance, recharging and repairs.

1.4.7 Shall—the word ‘shall’ is to be understood as mandatory.

1.4.8 Should—the word ‘should’ means advisory or recommended.

1.5 INTERPRETATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ROUNDING METHOD.

1.5.1 Interpretation of specified limiting values.

For the purpose of assessing compliance with this Standard, the specified limiting values herein shall be interpreted in accordance with the ‘rounding method’ described in AS 2706, i.e. the observed or calculated value shall be rounded to the same number of figures as in the specified limiting value and then compared with the specified limiting value. For example, for specified limiting values of 2.5, 2.50, and 2.500, the observed or calculated value would be rounded respectively to the nearest 0.1, 0.01, or 0.001. (See also Appendix C.)

* Obsolescent Standard.