



BSI Standards Publication

Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises –

Part 3: Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice

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Summary of pages

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Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 5306 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2017. It was prepared by Technical Committee FSH/2, *Fire extinguishers*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 5306 supersedes BS 5306-3:2009, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

The other parts of BS 5306 published are as follows:

- Part 0: *Guide for selection of installed systems and other fire extinguishing equipment;*
- Part 1: *Hose reels and foam inlets;*
- Part 2: *Specification for sprinkler systems;*
- Part 4: *Specification for carbon dioxide systems;*
- Part 5: *Halon systems:*
 - Section 5.1: *Specification for Halon 1301 total flooding systems;*
 - Section 5.2: *Specification for Halon 1211 total flooding systems;*
- Part 6: *Foam systems:*
 - Section 6.1: *Foam systems – Specification for low expansion foam systems;*
 - Section 6.2: *Foam systems – Specification for medium and high expansion foam systems;*
- Part 7: *Extinguishing powder systems;*
- Part 8: *Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers;*
- Part 9: *Recharging of portable fire extinguishers.*

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- greater clarification given of the procedures;
- improvement of the layout of the standard to improve ease of reading and interpretation;
- recognition of changes in relevant legislation;
- reference to fire risk assessments;
- clarification of linkage to BS 5306-8;
- inclusion of references to BS 5306-9;
- addition of fire safety logbooks;
- reordering of annexes as follows:
 - [Annex A](#) – commissioning;
 - [Annex B](#) – basic service;

- [Annex C](#) – extended service;
- [Annex D](#) – recharge;
- [Annex E](#) – overhaul;
- [Annex F](#) – halon extinguishers;
- [Annex G](#) – examples of labels;
- [Annex H](#) – extinguishers conforming to withdrawn British Standards;
- [Annex I](#) – training of the competent person.

Hazard warnings

WARNING. This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 5306 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 5306 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Attention is drawn to environmental legislation, especially where this concerns the disposal of media that have been replaced during the course of the maintenance procedures given in this part of BS 5306.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative requirement.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

In particular, attention is drawn to the following statutory regulations and their associated Guidance Notes:

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 [1] and its associated guidelines;
- Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 [2] and its associated guidelines;
- Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 [3];
- Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 [4];
- Transportable Pressure Vessels Regulations 2001 [5];
- Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2002 [6];

- Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003 [\[7\]](#);
- Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 [\[8\]](#);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 [\[9\]](#).

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1 Scope

This part of BS 5306 gives recommendations for the initial commissioning of all portable fire extinguishers and schedules for the subsequent maintenance of extinguishers installed in all locations. It also gives recommendations for handling certain obsolete types of extinguishers.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5306-8, *Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises — Part 8: Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers — Code of practice*¹

BS 5306-9, *Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises — Part 9: Recharging of portable fire extinguishers — Code of practice*

BS EN 3 (all parts), *Portable fire extinguishers*

BS EN 1802, *Transportable gas cylinders — Periodic inspection and testing of seamless aluminium alloy gas cylinders*¹

BS EN 1968, *Transportable gas cylinders — Periodic inspection and testing of seamless steel gas cylinders*¹

BS EN 15004-2, *Fixed firefighting systems — Gas extinguishing systems — Part 2: Physical properties and system design of gas extinguishing systems for FK-5-1-12 extinguishant*

BS EN 15004-5, *Fixed firefighting systems — Gas extinguishing systems — Part 5: Physical properties and system design of gas extinguishing systems for HFC 227ea extinguishant*

BS EN 15004-9, *Fixed firefighting systems — Gas extinguishing systems — Part 9: Physical properties and system design of gas extinguishing systems for IG-55 extinguishant*

BS EN 15004-10, *Fixed firefighting systems — Gas extinguishing systems — Part 10: Physical properties and system design of gas extinguishing systems for IG-541 extinguishant*

BS EN 27201-1, *Fire protection — Fire extinguishing media — Halogenated hydrocarbons — Part 1: Specifications for halon 1211 and halon 1301*

BS EN ISO 5923, *Equipment for fire protection and fire fighting — Fire extinguishing media — Carbon dioxide*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 5306, the terms and definitions given in BS EN 3, BS 5306-9 and the following apply.

NOTE The term *water-based* is used in this part of BS 5306 and is to be taken to include water, water plus additive, foam and wet chemical types of extinguisher.

3.1 additive

chemical added to an extinguishing medium for such purposes as corrosion inhibition, freezing point depression, penetration, enhanced wetting, and film or coating formation

¹ This part of BS 5306 gives informative references to BS 5306-8:2012, BS EN 1802:2002 and BS EN 1968:2002.