



## **Fire Industry Association**

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# **LEGISLATION RELATING TO PRESSURISED FIRE EXTINGUISHING PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS**

The following legislation applies to fire extinguishing products and systems:

- Statutory Instruments 1999 No.2001 : The Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999
- Statutory Instruments 2000 No.128 : Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000
- Statutory Instruments 1996 No.2092 : Carriage of Dangerous Goods (Classification, Packaging and Labeling) and Use of Transportable Pressure Receptacles Regulations 1996 (CDGCPL2 Regulations)
- The Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive which is yet to be enacted into UK legislation

This note briefly explains the requirements of these Regulations as they relate to the safety of the products and systems. It does not cover requirements relating to effectiveness for fire extinguishing.

### **PRESSURE EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS**

These Regulations came into force on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1999 with a transition period lasting until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2002. The Regulations implement the requirement of the European Union - Pressure Equipment Directive.

Products and systems covered by the Regulations include:

- All portable fire extinguishers, including CO<sub>2</sub> extinguishers
- The pipework, fixed and flexible, for fire extinguishing hose reel assemblies and feed pipes
- The pipework and manifolds of gaseous fixed fire extinguishing systems

These regulations introduce the requirements of the Pressure Equipment Directive into UK law. They require products to meet essential safety requirements prior to being placed on the market for sale. Dependent upon the working pressure and volume of the product or system, safety requirements may need to be assessed by a Notified third party assessment body.

More details are provided in the fact file on this subject.

**Fact File No 0001**

## **PRESSURE SYSTEMS SAFETY REGULATIONS**

These Regulations came into force on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2000 and re-enact, with amendments, the Pressure Systems and Transportable Gas Containers Regulations 1989. The Regulations relate to the ongoing safety of pressure systems in places of work.

Products and systems covered by the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations include:

- The hose and nozzle of portable fire extinguishers with an operating pressure of at least 25 bar at 60<sup>o</sup>C or a mass of at least 23 Kg. The pressure receptacle itself will be covered by the CDGCPL2 Regulations.
- Systems containing a fluid at an operating pressure greater than 0.5 bar
- Note: a “system” will include products such as trolley mounted fire extinguishers as the definition of a system is either:
  - a) “one or more pressure vessels of rigid construction and any associated pipework and protective devices”
  - b) “the pipework with its protective devices to which a transportable pressure receptacle is, or is intended to be, connected which contains or is liable to contain a relevant fluid.....”

Note: These definitions are included within Part 1 Regulation 2.

Note: A fluid in this context includes a gas.

Note: The pressure receptacle is excluded from the requirements of the PSSR but is covered by the requirements of the CDGCPL2 Regulations.

The Regulations place a responsibility upon designers, manufacturers, importers or suppliers to ensure that the systems are safe. Part 2, Regulations 4 and 5 provide more detail.

There is also a requirement that for systems with a product of working pressure x volume of 250 bar litre or more that the owner of the system shall not operate it unless there is a written scheme of examination, signed off by a “competent person”, for the periodic inspection of the system by a competent person. Part 2 Regulation 8 and Schedule 1 Part 2 2(1) relate to this requirement.

The term Competent Person (CP) is defined in Part 1, Regulation 2. The CP is to be used to:

- Draw up or certify schemes of examination (of pressure vessels)
- Carry out examinations under the scheme

The CP services can be provided by the following bodies:

- A user company with its own in-house inspection department
- An inspection organisation providing such services to clients
- A self employed person

An Approved Code of Practice for the Regulations has now been published by HSE and is entitled “Safety of Pressure Systems” ISBN 0-7176-1767X-L122 and is available from the Stationary Office.

## **CDGCPL2 REGULATIONS**

These regulations apply to Transportable Pressure Receptacles used for the transportation of gas under pressure. They came fully into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1999 however subsequent amendments included in the CDG (amendment) Regulations 1998 defer the full introduction until July 2001.

Products covered by the Regulations include:

- Cylinders for portable fire extinguishers with an operating pressure of at least 25 bar at 60<sup>o</sup>C or a mass of at least 23 Kg and are used or intended to be used at work. Note: This also covers trolley mounted fire extinguishers.

The Regulations require the Receptacles to be of a safe design and place requirements on the designers and manufactures to ensure that they are safe. There are further requirements relating to the provision

of a certificate by an “approved person”, the marking of the receptacle by an approved person or “competent authority” and the periodic inspection by an approved person.

The approved person is defined in Clause 15 (1) of the Regulations. This normally means a person approved by the Health and Safety Executive. A list of approved persons can be obtained from UKAS.

The competent authority is defined in Part 1 Clause 2 and, for transportable pressure receptacles within Great Britain means the Health and Safety Executive.

At present there is no published HSE guidance on these requirements however guidance will be produced before July 2001. In the meantime requests for clarification may be made to local HSE office help desks. Telephone numbers will be found in telephone directories and “yellow pages”.

### **TRANSPORTABLE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE**

This European Directive, which has yet to be enacted into UK legislation, relates to the safety of pressurised containers transported within Europe. There are requirements within this Directive relating to inspection by approved persons. HSE will consult industry on the implementation into Great British legislation later in 2000. It is, however, understood that there are proposals being considered in Great Britain to limit the requirement for compliance with this Directive, until 2003, to those pressurised containers that are to be transported from the UK to other EU states i.e. they will cross national frontiers within the EU.

### **CONCLUSION**

Where fire protection companies need to comply with the requirements of the PSSR their options are limited to:

- the establishment of in-house inspection facilities which would normally be assessed by UKAS as compliant with EN45004. These are probably only realistic for larger companies
- using the services of a third party organisation who would in some way supervise the inspection of pressure receptacles. The names of relevant organisations can be obtained from UKAS.

Where a fire protection company need to comply with the requirements of the CDGCPL2 Regulations their options are limited to:

- using the services of an approved person who has been approved for this purpose by HSE.

### **SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

As this note is only able to provide very basic information relating to the Regulations, it is recommended that each company with an interest obtains copies of relevant publications and studies their requirements.

Copies of the Statutory Instruments and the PSSR Approved Code of Practice may be obtained from the Stationary Office. Telephone orders to 0870 600 5522, fax: 0870 600 5533 or e-mail: [book.orders@theso.co.uk](mailto:book.orders@theso.co.uk).

### **DISCLAIMER**

The information set out in this document is believed to be correct in the light of information currently available but it is not guaranteed and neither the Fire Extinguishing Trades Association nor its officers can accept any responsibility in respect of the contents or any events arising from use of the information contained within this document.

**November 2000**