

**Guidance  
Note**



**Fire Industry Association**

**FIA Short Guide to  
BS 5306-3: 2017**

This document is a short guide to highlight the principal changes introduced by the 2017 version of BS 5306-3. More information on the changes can be found on the FIA website - [www.fia.uk.com](http://www.fia.uk.com)

## **1 Improvement of the layout of the standard to improve ease of reading and interpretation**

- Safety precautions brought forward within the document to highlight them.
- Reordering of annexes to more logical sequence. All annexes are now written in full so that they can be read as standalone maintenance procedures. All maintenance type annexes in matrix/table layout to make clear which actions relate to which fire extinguisher types.
- Rationalisation of defined terms (eg water based used to include water, water plus additive, foam and wet chemical fire extinguishers); use of terms from EN3 (eg body fittings used to describe parts permanently attached to the body).

## **2 Greater clarification given of the procedures**

- Explanations of each maintenance type; what is done and why.
- Reflection of the duties of the Responsible Person under fire safety legislation with regard to fire extinguishers (eg commentary on clause 6 - It is the duty of the responsible person to ensure that extinguishers are maintained regularly by a competent person. Portable fire extinguishers are regarded as 'life safety equipment' and a planned system of maintenance is intended to ensure that the equipment is:
  - in an efficient working state (safe);
  - in working order (reliable);
  - in good repair (efficient);
  - suitable for the hazard (fit for purpose).
- Mounting height specified as up to 1m to the carrying handle (and up to 1.5m for fire extinguishers less than 4kg total mass), instead of approximately (to allow for common variations at customer request) with an accompanying risk assessment.
- Removal of term 'not maintained' replaced with 'corrective action required' to accurately describe that something needs doing to a fire extinguisher to bring it back into serviceable condition.
- Specification of which marking parts to EN3-7 on a fire extinguisher should not be obscured.
- Clarification in the use and marking of maintenance labels. Provision of an example of a maintenance label.
- Introduction of 'corrective action required' warning labels to convey health and safety information to a prospective user. A typical example warning label is provided.
- Explanation and rationalisation of conditions indicating a fire extinguisher is unsafe for use or obsolete.
- Clarification for fire extinguisher mass check, eg commissioning -  $\pm 5\%$  of the charge for carbon dioxide extinguishers when compared to the declared stamped mass;  $\pm 5\%$  of the charge for all other extinguishers when compared to the nominal mass.
- Additional action points to make each maintenance procedure complete, eg checks for mounting bracket/stand; checks for signs, etc.
- Annex G added to show examples of maintenance label and corrective action label.

### **3 System of Maintenance for Extinguishers with Non-Metal Bodies**

- The 2017 revision deals with extinguishers with non-metal bodies manufactured in or after 2002 and such extinguishers now need no longer be automatically condemned by virtue of their type. The standard system of maintenance in BS 5306-3, including the system of (broadly annual) basic servicing and (broadly five-yearly) extended servicing by competent persons, has been extended in the 2017 revision to include and apply to such extinguishers.
- Conditions indicating that an extinguisher is unsafe for use have been extended to cater for those with non-metal bodies.

### **4 Recognition of safety/advisory notices**

- Information from safety/advisory notices and product recalls issued by regulatory/trade bodies and product manufacturers to be considered before evaluating fitness for continued service of a fire extinguisher.

### **5 Collation of information to be provided to the responsible person**

- All information to be conveyed from the Competent Person to the Responsible Person is now in Clause 11. Written report and instructions to the Responsible Person regarding visual inspection (prescribed wording is provided), fire risk assessment, and fire log book.
- Written report clause written to reflect different ways in which the Competent Person may communicate results/recommendations to the Responsible Person, eg written report/service certificate provided as paper/electronic).
- Addition of advising of the requirement of, and practice of referring to, a fire risk assessment.
- Addition of practice of referring to, and completing, fire safety log books.

### **6 Enhanced steps and documentation regarding compliance with BS5306-8 and Statutory Duties**

- Written report to contain details of any additional extinguishers or actions required to ensure that the level of fire protection cover at the premises is at least sufficient and, where applicable, in accordance with BS 5306-8.
- Addition to all maintenance types (all annexes), as a first check, to ensure that the extinguisher is suitable to cover the hazards which are present within the area it is located.
- Written report to advise the responsible in writing of their obligation in law to provide at all times appropriate levels of fire-fighting equipment.

### **7 Inclusion of references to BS 5306-9**

- Greater clarification of recharging procedures; including addition of Annex D, replacement of media or components.

**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 Industry 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.*



**Fire Industry Association**

**Tudor House, Kingsway Business Park, Oldfield Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2HD**

**Tel: +44 (0)20 3166 5002 • [www.fia.uk.com](http://www.fia.uk.com)**