

NSW FACT SHEET – FIRE BLANKETS

1. FIRE BLANKETS

Fire blankets are fire safety items that can be useful in case of a fire. A fire blanket is a sheet of flexible material, typically woven fibreglass, used to smother a fire in the event of an emergency.

Fire protection and firefighting equipment are addressed in clause (cl 359) of the *NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 (WHS Reg)*.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *WHS Reg* states that a person conducting a business or an undertaking (PCBU) must ensure that the workplace is provided with fire protection and firefighting equipment that is designed and built for the types of hazardous chemicals at the workplace in the quantities and conditions in which they are used, handled, generated or stored.

3. LOCATION AND SIGNAGE

Fire blanket locations should be conspicuous, readily accessible, not pose a further hazard, and where practicable, be positioned along normal travel paths and near exits (Section 6.3, AS 2444:2001). These are often used near kitchen exits.

Location signs should be mounted at least 2 m above the floor, or at a height that makes them most apparent to a person of average height on approach (Section 6.3, AS 2444:2001).

4. MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The fire blanket containers should have a service record tag or label indicating that a routine service has been carried out within the last six months (Sections 11.3 and 11.4, AS 1851:2012).

A supporting hardcopy summary record should also be available onsite.

5. INFORMATION SOURCES

- Part 7.1 of the *WHS Reg 2017*, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au
- *AS 2444-2001 Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets – Selection and location*
- *AS 1851-2012 Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*
- Email us: info@propertyrisk.com.au

