

NSW FACT SHEET – FIRE EXTINGUISHER



1. SELECTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Fire extinguishers are a cylindrical pressure vessel containing a dischargeable agent that may be used to extinguish a small fire. There are various types suitable for different types of fires. Selection of fire extinguisher types should be determined by review of the:

- Firefighting Measures section of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for hazardous chemicals stored onsite, per Cl 359 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017* (WHS Reg); and
- Essential Services Equipment required within a Fire Safety Schedule issued by the regulator under Cl 168 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Reg), or other regulatory approval documentation if constructed prior to 1988.

Australian Standard: Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets – Selection and location (AS 2444:2001) provides further relevant information for selection of types.

2. LOCATION AND SIGNAGE

Fire extinguisher locations should be conspicuous, readily accessible, not pose a further hazard, and where practicable, be positioned along normal travel paths and near exits. Locations must be relevant to the quantities and conditions in which hazardous chemicals are used, handled, generated or stored at the workplace.

Fire extinguishers should be mounted so that the bottom is at least 100 mm and the top is no more than 1,200 mm, from the floor.

A location sign should be installed above the extinguisher not less than 2 m above the floor, or at a height that ensures the sign is visible from 20 m away (Figure 3.2 and Section 3 of AS 2444:2001).

3. MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Fire extinguishers must have a tag/label and a hard copy summary record to indicate the completion of the following routine service types, per Section 1.16 of *Australian Standard: Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment* (AS 1851:2012):

- Six monthly;
- Yearly; and
- Five yearly (hydrostatic pressure test).

4. INFORMATION SOURCES

- Part 7.1 of the *WHS Reg* and Part 9 of the *EP&A Reg*, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au
- Australian Standards, visit <https://infostore.saiglobal.com/>
- Email us: info@propertyrisk.com.au