

SINGAPORE STANDARD

SS 578 : 2012

(ICS 13.220)

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR

Use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers

(Formerly CP 55)

Published by
SPRING Singapore
1 Fusionopolis Walk
#01-02 South Tower, Solaris
Singapore 138628
SPRING Singapore Website: www.spring.gov.sg

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ISBN 978-981-4353-40-3

This Singapore Standard was approved by the Building and Construction Standards Committee on behalf of the Singapore Standards Council on 3 October 2012.

First published, 1991

First revision and re-numbered as SS 578, 2012

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Fire Safety Managers' Association (Singapore)

Institution of Engineers, Singapore

Lingjack Engineering Works Pte Ltd

National Environment Agency

Singapore Civil Defence Force

Singapore Manufacturing Federation

The Institution of Fire Engineers (Singapore Branch)

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Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by a Working Group appointed by the Technical Committee on Building Maintenance and Management which is under the purview of the Building and Construction Standards Committee.

This Code covers the requirements and procedures on the selection, installation, inspection, servicing, maintenance and recharging of portable fire extinguishers used in buildings. It is intended to complement the SS EN 3 series of standards for portable fire extinguishers and provide guidance to persons who need to use and/or maintain portable fire extinguishers.

The main changes made in this revision are as follows:

- (a) The classification of fires has been updated in line with British and European Standards. It now defines classes of fires according to the materials undergoing combustion.
- (b) The classification of hazards has been updated and quantified.
- (c) Selection of fire extinguishers for Class A hazards has been simplified in line with British and European Standards.
- (d) More detailed requirements/recommendations are given for selecting extinguishers for Class B, C, D and F fire hazards.
- (e) All references to halon gas based extinguishers are removed.
- (f) More examples are given in the Annexes to assist the user in selecting and locating fire extinguishers according to the occupancy.

In preparing this standard, reference was made to the following publications:

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (1) | BS EN 2 : 1992 | Classification of fires |
| (2) | BS 5306-3 | Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises
Part 3 : 2009 Code of practice for commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers
Part 8 : 2000 Selection and installation of portable fire extinguishers |
| (3) | NFPA 10 – 2010 | Standard for portable fire extinguishers |
| (4) | SS EN3 series | Specification for portable fire extinguishers |
| (5) | Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Buildings 2007 | |

Acknowledgement is made for the use of information from these publications.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Singapore Standard may be the subject of patent rights. SPRING Singapore shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all of such patent rights.

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards are subject to periodic review to keep abreast of technological changes and new technical developments. The revisions of Singapore Standards are announced through the issue of either amendments or revised editions.*
2. *Compliance with a Singapore Standard does not exempt users from legal obligations.*

Code of practice for use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers

Section One – General

1.1 Scope and purpose

1.1.1 Scope

This Code covers the selection, installation, inspection, testing and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers and the requirements given herein are minimum. Portable fire extinguishers are appliances to be used as a first line of defence against small fires. They are essential even if other forms of fire protection equipment like hose reels, sprinklers and rising mains are installed in the premises.

1.1.2 Purpose

This Code is prepared to assist in selecting the appropriate extinguishers as well as to install and maintain them correctly. The requirements are general in nature and not intended to supersede the specific requirements of relevant authority for specific occupancies.

1.2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS EN 837-1	Pressure gauges – Bourdon tube pressure gauges – Dimensions, metrology, requirements and testing
SS CP 12 : Part 1	Filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of containers for the storage and transport of compressed gases – Part 1: Seamless metal containers for gases, excluding dissolved acetylene
SS EN 3-7	Portable fire extinguishers – Characteristics, performance requirements and test methods
SS EN 3-8	Portable fire extinguishers – Additional requirements to SS EN 3-7 for the construction, resistance to pressure and mechanical tests for extinguishers with a maximum allowable pressure equal to or lower than 30 bar
SS EN 3-9	Portable fire extinguishers – Additional requirements for SS EN 3-7 for pressure resistance of CO ₂ extinguishers
SS EN 3-10	Portable fire extinguishers – Provisions for evaluating the conformity of a portable fire extinguisher to SS EN 3-7