

SINGAPORE STANDARD

# CP 55 : 1991

(ICS 13.220.30)

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR

## Use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers

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Published by  
SPRING Singapore  
2 Bukit Merah Central  
Singapore 159835  
SPRING Singapore Website: [www.spring.gov.sg](http://www.spring.gov.sg)  
Standards Website: [www.standards.org.sg](http://www.standards.org.sg)



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ISBN 9971-67-401-7

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## SINGAPORE STANDARD

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR  
USE AND MAINTENANCE OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

## FOREWORD

This Code of Practice was prepared by the Technical Committee for Code of Practice on the Use and Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers under the direction of the Building and Construction Industry Practice 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 Singapore Standard 232 : 1980 Specification for Portable Fire Extinguishers and provide guidance to persons who need to use and/or maintain portable fire extinguishers.

In addition to conforming to this Code, individuals or organizations servicing fire extinguishers should familiarise themselves with other applicable legislations.

In preparing this code, reference was made to the following standards:

1. BS 5045 Transportable containers  
Part 3 : 1984 Specification for seamless aluminium alloy gas containers above 0.5 litre water capacity and up to 300 bar charged pressure at 15°C
2. BS 5306 Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises  
Part 3 : 1985 Code of practice for selection, installation and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers
3. BS 5423 : 1987 Specification for portable fire extinguishers
4. NFPA 10 - 1984 Portable fire extinguishers
5. SS 232 : 1980 Specification for portable fire extinguishers
6. Fire Precautions for Buildings 1982

Acknowledgement is made for the use of information from the overseas publications and the fire regulation.

## NOTE

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

## SECTION ONE

### GENERAL

#### 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 to cater for 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.

#### 1.2 PURPOSE

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

The requirements of this Code are by no means the ultimate and may be replaced by new technologies and better alternatives provided the degree of protection meets the requirement of the relevant authority.

#### 1.3 DEFINITIONS

1.3.1 The different types of fires are classified into Classes A, B, C and D and are defined as follows:

(a) **Class A**

Class A fires are fires involving the burning of ordinary combustible materials like wood, paper, cloth, furnishing, plastics and rubber.

(b) **Class B**

Class B fires are fires involving flammable liquids, solvents, oils, paints, thinner and flammable gases.

(c) **Class C**

Class C fires are fires involving live electrical equipment like electrical mains, transformers and electrical appliances, etc and where extinguishing medium used must be electrically non-conductive. (If the electrical equipment is de-energized, extinguishers for Classes A and B can be used.)

(d) **Class D**

Class D fires are fires involving combustible metals eg. potassium, magnesium, titanium, sodium, lithium and zirconium.

1.3.2 **Body (Or Extinguisher Body).** The metal shell of an extinguisher, excluding all closures, safety devices and pressure indicators, designed to contain the extinguishing medium, and including any skirt.