

SINGAPORE STANDARD

Code of practice for the use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers



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portable fire extinguishers**

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Lingjack Engineering Works Pte Ltd
SETSCO Services Pte Ltd
Singapore Civil Defence Force
Singapore Institute of Architects
Singapore Manufacturing Federation
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore
The Institution of Fire Engineers (Singapore Branch)
TUV SUD PSB Pte Ltd

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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.

The standard is a revision of SS 578 : 2012 'Code of practice for use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers'. 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 definitions have been updated.
- (b) Selection of fire extinguishers for Class A hazards has been simplified to be in line with British and European standards.
- (c) More detailed requirements/recommendations are given for selecting extinguishers for Class B, C, D and F fire hazards.

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

- (1) BS EN 2 : 1992 Classification of fires
- (2) BS 5306 Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises
 - Part 3:2017 Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice
 - Part 8:2012 Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice
- (3) NFPA 10 – 2018 Standard for portable fire extinguishers
- (4) SS EN 3 series Portable fire extinguishers
- (5) Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Buildings 2018

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

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NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions.*
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Code of practice for the use and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers

1 Scope

This Code covers the selection, installation, inspection, testing and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers and the requirements given herein are the minimum. Portable fire extinguishers are appliances to be used as the 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 on the premises.

This Code is prepared to assist in selecting the appropriate extinguishers as well as their installation and maintenance.

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 5306-8	Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises – Part 8 : Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice
BS EN 837-1	Pressure gauges – Bourdon tube pressure gauges – Dimensions, metrology, requirements and testing
SS 639-1	Code of practice for the filling, inspection, testing and maintenance of gas cylinders for the storage and transport of compressed gases – Part 1: Seamless steel and aluminium alloy cylinders (excluding dissolved acetylene) – Inspection at the time of filling, periodic maintenance and testing
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