

**SS 578:2019+A1:2022**  
(ICS 13.220)

**SINGAPORE STANDARD**

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

Incorporating Amendment No. 1

**SS 578:2019+A1:2022**

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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.

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

### 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. Where SSs are deemed to be stable, i.e. no foreseeable changes in them, they will be classified as "mature standards". Mature standards will not be subject to further review unless there are requests to review such standards.*
2. *An SS or TR is voluntary in nature except when it is made mandatory by a regulatory authority. It can also be cited in contracts making its application a business necessity. Users are advised to assess and determine whether the SS or TR is suitable for their intended use or purpose. If required, they should refer to the relevant professionals or experts for advice on the use of the document. Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Standards Council shall not be liable for any damages whether directly or indirectly suffered by anyone or any organisation as a result of the use of any SS or TR. Although care has been taken to draft this standard, users are also advised to ensure that they apply the information after due diligence.*
3. *Compliance with a SS or TR does not exempt users from any legal obligations.*

# 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 <sub>2</sub> extinguishers
SS EN 3-10	Portable fire extinguishers – Provisions for evaluating the conformity of a portable fire extinguisher to SS EN 3-7