

BS 5306-9:2015



BSI Standards Publication

Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises –

Part 9: Recharging of portable fire
extinguishers – Code of practice

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Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 5306 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 March 2015. It was prepared by Technical Committee FSH/2, *Fire extinguishers*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 5306 supersedes BS 6643-1:1985 and BS 6643-2:1985, which are withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

BS 5306 is published in the following parts:

- Part 0: *Guide for selection of installed systems and other fire extinguishing equipment;*
- Part 1: *Hose reels and foam inlets;*
- Part 3: *Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice;*
- Part 4: *Specification for carbon dioxide systems;*
- Part 5: *Halon systems:*
 - Section 5.1: *Specification for halon 1301 total flooding systems;*
 - Section 5.2: *Halon 1211 total flooding systems;*
- Part 8: *Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice;*
- Part 9: *Recharging of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice.*

Information about this document

This standard is an amalgamation of BS 6643-1:1985 and BS 6643-2:1985. It is a full revision of the standards, and introduces the following principal changes:

- introduction of verified alternatives;
- clarification of where new components should be used;
- recognition of changes in BS 5306-3;
- guidance on the procedures to be followed during the maintenance process of recharging an extinguisher;
- recognition of changes in relevant legislation.

Hazard warnings

WARNING. This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 5306 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

In particular, attention is drawn to the following statutory regulations and their associated Guidance Notes:

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 [1] and associated Guidance Notes;
- Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 [2] and associated Guidance Notes;
- Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 [3] and associated Guidance Notes;
- Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 [4];
- Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 [5];
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 [6];
- Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 [7];
- Chemical (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 [8];
- Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 [9];
- Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003 [10];
- Health and Safety at Work Act, etc. 1974 [11];
- Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 [12];
- Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 [13];
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 [14];
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 [15];
- Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 [16];

- Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 [17];
- Transportable Pressure Vessels Regulations 2001 [18];
- Transportable Pressure Vessels Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 [19];
- EC Regulation 1907/2006 [20];
- EC Regulation 1272/2008 [21].

Attention is also drawn to environmental legislation, especially where this concerns the disposal of media that have been replaced during the course of the recharging procedures given in this part of BS 5306.

1 Scope

This part of BS 5306 gives recommendations for the recharging of portable fire extinguishers.

This part of BS 5306 also gives recommendations for components, gas cartridges, propellants and refill extinguishing media for extinguishers.

NOTE Disposable extinguishers are not intended to be recharged and are therefore outside the scope of this part of BS 5306.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5306-3, *Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises – Part 3: Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*¹⁾

BS 7863, *Recommendations for colour coding to indicate the extinguishing media contained in portable fire extinguishers*

BS EN 3 (all parts), *Portable fire extinguishers*

BS EN ISO 5923, *Equipment for fire protection and fire fighting – Fire extinguishing media – Carbon dioxide*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 5306, the terms and definitions given in BS 5306-3 and the following apply.

3.1 declaration of conformity

statement by the manufacturer and/or supplier of a component or medium that a verified alternative (3.3) is fit for the purpose for which it is to be used and that it ensures the continued safety, reliability and performance of the extinguisher

3.2 recharging

maintenance procedure carried out after complete or partial discharge of an extinguisher, or as part of a scheduled maintenance procedure, to restore the extinguisher to its operational condition

3.3 verified alternative

component or medium, not specified by the original manufacturer of the fire extinguisher, for which assurance has been provided in the form of a declaration of conformity (3.1)

NOTE 1 The reliability of a portable fire extinguisher to perform its functions on demand is, to a significant degree, governed by the reliability of individual components. In general, it is advisable that all components, such as body, valve assembly and extinguishing medium, conform to the applicable part(s) of the BS EN 3 series. Users of this part of BS 5306 are advised to consider the desirability of using verified alternatives that are supported by an accredited third-party certification body.

¹⁾ This part of BS 5306 also gives an informative reference to BS 5306-3:2009.