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# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> 1846—1985

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## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS— POWDER TYPE



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**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
*Incorporated by Royal Charter*

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 8 October 1985 and published on 4 November 1985.

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The following interests are represented on Committee FP/3:

Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales  
Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia  
Commonwealth Fire Board  
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.  
Department of Defence  
Department of Home Affairs and Environment  
Department of Industrial Relations, N.S.W.  
Experimental Building Station  
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia  
Insurance Council of Australia  
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Melbourne  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Vic.  
Telecom Australia  
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**AMENDMENT No 1**  
**to**  
**AS 1846—1985**  
**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS—POWDER TYPE**

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**CORRECTION**

*SUMMARY:* This amendment applies to Clause 2.4.3.

Published on 2 June 1986.

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**Page 5. Clause 2.4.3.**

Delete  $t = \frac{D}{T}$  and substitute  $t = 2.45 \frac{D}{T}$

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**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS—  
POWDER TYPE**

**AS 1846—1985**

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## PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Fire Extinguishers, to supersede AS 1846—1984, Portable Fire Extinguishers—Dry Chemical Type.

The changes in this edition include allowance for trace gas detection, new design and pulsation test requirements for the extinguisher body construction, the inclusion of a test requirement for siphon tubes, a revision of the requirements for Appendix D, and changes of an editorial nature.

Some purchasers may require evidence from manufacturers or suppliers that their product complies with the provisions of the relevant standard. The Standards Mark of the Association (see Note to Marking clause) on an extinguisher is an independent assurance of such compliance.

Other Australian standards dealing with portable fire extinguishers are as follows:

- AS 1841 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Water (Gas Container) Type
- AS 1842 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Water (Stored Pressure) Type
- AS 1844 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Foam (Gas Container) Type
- AS 1845 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Foam (Stored Pressure) Type
- AS 1847 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Carbon Dioxide Type
- AS 1848 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Halon Type
- AS 1850 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Classification, Rating and Fire Testing
- AS 1851.1 Maintenance of Fire Protection Equipment, Part 1—Portable Fire Extinguishers
- AS 2444 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Selection and Location

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**for**  
**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS—POWDER TYPE**

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This standard specifies requirements for metal-bodied, rechargeable, portable fire extinguishers of the powder type. It provides for two types, viz:

- (a) The gas container type.
- (b) The stored pressure type.

The standard specifies materials, methods of manufacture and performance of the extinguisher and the compressed gas container.

**1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following standards are referred to in this standard:

- AS 1849 Identification Colours for Portable Fire Extinguishers
- AS 1850 Portable Fire Extinguishers—Classification, Rating and Fire Testing
- AS 2030.1 SAA Gas Cylinders Code, Part 1—Cylinders for Compressed Cases Other than Acetylene
- AS 2700 Colour Standards for General Purposes Standards for materials and for welding or brazing methods are listed in Appendix A and in Appendices B and D, respectively.

**1.3 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

**1.3.1 Portable fire extinguisher**—a first-aid fire-fighting appliance which is designed to be carried and operated by hand and which in working order has a mass not greater than 23 kg.

**NOTE:** This limit of 23 kg may be reconsidered internationally and could be reduced to 20 kg.

**1.3.2 Powder type portable fire extinguisher**—a portable fire extinguisher containing powder as the extinguishing medium.

**NOTE:** The powder type portable fire extinguisher is generally referred to in this standard as 'an extinguisher' or 'the extinguisher'.

**1.3.3 Gas container type**—an extinguisher in which the extinguishing medium is expelled by means of a compressed gas released from a gas container.

**1.3.4 Stored pressure type**—an extinguisher in which the extinguishing medium is expelled by means of dry inert gas or dry air stored with the extinguishing medium under pressure.