

Australian Standard[®]

**Maintenance of fire protection
equipment**

**Part 1: Portable fire
extinguishers and fire blankets**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 13 October 1995 and published on 5 January 1993.

The following interests are represented on Committee FP/3:

Aerosol Association of Australia
Australian Construction Service—Department of the Arts and Administrative Services
Australian Fire Authorities Council
Australian Fire Protection Association
Commonwealth Fire Board
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Defence, Australia
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia
Fire Trainers Association of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee FP/3 on Fire Extinguishers to supersede AS 1851.1—1989, *Maintenance of fire protection equipment, Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers*.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to provide it as an Australian Standard.

This edition of the Standard includes a maintenance schedule for fire blankets and maintains the concept of periodicity of inspection and servicing for fire extinguishers formerly referred to as 'levels of inspection and servicing'. The periods are on a time-elapsed basis and range, depending on the extinguisher type, from six-monthly inspections to six-yearly inspections. The maintenance schedule tables are no longer grouped according to the different types of extinguishers; instead, they are now in terms of maintenance periods.

With the publication of AS 1851.1—1985, the maintenance of all chemical fire extinguishers was brought to a common cyclic routine, i.e. six-monthly, yearly, three-yearly as appropriate, and six-yearly. This replaced the timetables in AS 1851, Part 1—1976 which gave no easy correlation between the maintenance periods of various types of extinguishers.

Requirements for the charging of new extinguishers shipped empty are given in AS 1841, *Portable fire extinguishers*. Installation procedures and requirements, and signs, are specified in AS 2444, *Portable fire extinguishers—Selection and location*.

A companion Standard to provide guidance on servicing of portable fire extinguishers is available (AS 3676—1989, *Portable fire extinguishers—Guide to servicing*) and will assist in the general duties, training, and certification of personnel expected to service and maintain portable fire extinguishers.

In 1979, Standards controlling the manufacture of extinguishers were upgraded significantly and Standards Australia became directly involved through the quality assurance and certification scheme and the application of a unique identification label.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
Maintenance of fire protection equipment

Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out requirements for the regular inspection, testing, recharging and general servicing of portable fire extinguishers that, at the time of manufacture, complied with the contemporary edition of the relevant Standard listed in Table 1.1. For fire extinguishers used regularly for demonstration and training, maintenance should be more frequent than specified due to the increased potential for wear and damage.

When pressure testing operating heads (valves), components such as pressure indicators are disassembled which results in the pressure test not reflecting the pressure retention characteristics of the complete assembly.

This Standard also includes a maintenance schedule for fire blankets complying with the requirements of AS 3504 and intended for use on small fires involving cooking oil, fats and clothing.

TABLE 1.1
RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN STANDARD*

Extinguisher type	Expellant method		
	Gas container	Stored pressure	Chemical
Water	AS 1841.2 (AS 1841) (AS A31.2)	AS 1841.2 (AS 1842) (AS A31.3)	AS 1840 (AS A31.1)
Wet chemical	—	AS 1841.3 (AS 1842)	—
Foam	AS 1841.4 (AS 1844) (AS A32.2)	AS 1841.4 (AS 1845) (AS 32.3)	AS 1843 (AS A32.1)
Powder (dry chemical)	AS 1841.5 (AS 1846) (AS A137)	AS 1841.5 (AS 1846) (AS A137)	—
Carbon dioxide	—	AS 1841.6 (AS 1847) (AS A138)	—
Vapourizing liquid (Halon)	—	AS 1841.7 (AS 1848) (AS A163)†	—
Non-rechargeable	—	AS/NZS 1841.8	—
Aerosol	—	AS/NZS 4353	—

* Australian Standard numbers appearing in parentheses refer to superseded Standards.

† Halon 1211 and Halon 1301