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Australian Standard CA18—1968

1851-1976

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE HOSE REELS

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THE FOLLOWING SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL organizations and departments were officially represented on the committees entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Associated Chambers of Commerce
Associated Chambers of Manufactures
Australian Fire Protection Association
Australian and New Zealand Railways Conferences
Commonwealth Department of Works
Commonwealth Fire Board
Council of Fire and Accident Underwriters
Department of Shipping and Transport
Department of Supply
Departments of Labour and Industry
Department of Mines
Departments of Government Transport
Electricity Supply Association of Australia
Fire Brigades
Non-Tariff Insurance Association
Postmaster-General's Department
Public Works Department
Royal Australian Institute of Architects

This standard, prepared by Committees BD/18/3, Fire Extinguishers, and BD/18/7, Fire Hose Reels, was approved on behalf of Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 2 January 1968.

In order to keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian Standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvement to published standards are welcomed; these should be addressed to the Headquarters of the Association, Sydney.

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AMENDMENT No 1

to

AS CA18—1968

**INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
AND FIRE HOSE REELS**

Page 5. Table 1, Inspection, Recharging and Pressure Test Periods.

Alter the table as follows:

Type of extinguisher	Recharge Interval	
WATER		
Gas Container†:	<i>delete '3' and substitute '5'</i>	
Stored Pressure	<i>delete '3' and substitute '5'</i>	
FOAM		
Gas Container*:		
Premixed Foam Liquid Type:	<i>delete '2' and substitute '1'</i>	
Sealed Foam Liquid Container Type:	<i>delete '3' and substitute '5'</i>	

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Add the following footnote:

† See Rule.1.4.5 Gas Container.

Alter Note B under table to read:

B = supplementary 12-monthly inspection and service to Rule 1.6.

Page 6. Rule 1.3.1, Inspection.

1st paragraph top of page—*insert* between the words 'inspected' and 'in' the words 'and serviced'.

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Page 6. Rule 1.4.1, All Extinguishers.

1st paragraph—*insert* between the words 'be' and 'tested' the words: 'discharge in the normal manner and be'.

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Page 8. Rule 1.6.2, Water and Foam Type Extinguishers.

Item (ii)—*insert* after the word 'clogged' the words 'and there is no evidence of foreign matter in the liquid content'.

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Item (vi)—*insert* after the word 'corrosion' the words 'it is not normally necessary to remove the liquid content'.

Page 9. Rule 1.6.4, Dry Chemical Type Extinguisher.

Item (v)—*insert* after the word 'corrosion' the words 'it is not normally necessary to remove the dry chemical'.

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Page 10. Rule 1.7.1, Water and Foam Type Extinguishers.

Item (ii)—*delete* existing item and *substitute*:

- (ii) The cap or operating head shall be removed and the internal components inspected for defects.
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD RULES

**INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
PORTABLE FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS AND
FIRE HOSE REELS**

AS CA18 — 1968

First issued	1941
Revised	1964
Revised	1968

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PREFACE

This standard constitutes a revision and extension of AS CA18—1964, Rules for the Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers. The revision was undertaken in the first instance by the Association's Committee on Fire Extinguishers because of a decision to include specification requirements for halogenated hydrocarbon type extinguishers in a new standard and to withdraw AS A45 for carbon tetrachloride (CTC) and chlorobromomethane (CBM) types as the manufacture of extinguishers using CTC is being discontinued. At present the halogenated hydrocarbons approved are chlorobromomethane (CBM) and bromochlorodifluoromethane (BCF), and the code includes appropriate requirements relating to extinguishers using these materials.

Requirements for fire extinguishers of the hand pump type using CTC as the extinguishing medium have been extracted from the main code and are now given in an appendix, thus ensuring that maintenance requirements for these extinguishers will continue to be available until the extinguishers are all replaced.

During consideration of the present revision, the question of maintenance requirements for fire hose reels manufactured to AS A155 was discussed. The Committee on Fire Hose Reels considered that appropriate requirements could logically be included as a separate part of the present code since the inspection periods would coincide with those for fire extinguishers.

The title of the code has been altered to provide for the installation requirements specified but it is emphasized that the code does not deal with the installation of either extinguishers or fire hose reels in detail, or recommend in what locations they should be installed, as these are matters for the responsible authority.

A system of colour marking for the identification of portable extinguishers according to their basic type is given in AS A129, and an appendix illustrates how the location of the extinguisher may be indicated on a wall or column.

Australian standards which set out specification requirements for portable fire extinguishers and fire hose reels are:

- AS A31.1 Water (Soda Acid) Type
- AS A31.2 Water (Gas Container) Type
- AS A31.3 Water (Stored Pressure) Type
- AS A32.1 Foam (Chemical) Type
- AS A32.2 Foam (Gas Container) Type
- AS A137 Dry Chemical Type
- AS A138 Carbon Dioxide Type
- AS A163 Halogenated Hydrocarbon Type
- AS A155 Fire Hose Reels

This standard requires reference to AS CB4, SAA Gas Cylinders Code.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**Australian Standard Rules
for the
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND
FIRE HOSE REELS****Part I—PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

1.1 SCOPE. This Part of the Code applies to the installation and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, including regular inspection, pressure testing, and recharging.

NOTE: Inspection may be carried out by a responsible representative of the owner or occupant of the premises in which the extinguishers are installed or by a Fire Brigade Authority or a firm of maintenance engineers.

Reference is made to the following types of extinguisher:

Water—

- Soda Acid, complying with AS A31.1
- Gas Container, complying with AS A31.2
- Stored Pressure, complying with AS A31.3

Foam—

- Chemical, complying with AS A32.1
- Gas Container, complying with AS A32.2

Dry Chemical—

- Gas Container, complying with AS A137
- Stored Pressure, complying with AS A137

Carbon Dioxide—

- Compressed Carbon Dioxide, complying with AS A138

Halogenated Hydrocarbon—

- Gas Container, complying with AS A163
- Stored Pressure, complying with AS A163

NOTE: Maintenance requirements for hand pump type extinguishers using carbon tetrachloride (CTC) as the extinguishing medium are set out in Appendix B.

1.2 INSTALLATION.

1.2.1 Support. Every extinguisher shall be suspended from a substantial hook or bracket of suitable type, fastened to a wall, partition or other suitable structure.

Alternatively, the extinguisher may be installed in an unlocked cabinet which is at a suitable height and is clearly marked. Where the extinguisher may be subject to unauthorized interference the cabinet may be locked, provided it has a glass front which in the event of fire can be broken to provide access to the extinguisher.