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Australian Standard®

**Portable fire extinguishers—
Selection and location**

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 February 1990 and published on 11 June 1990.

The following interests are represented on Committee FP/3:

Attorney-General's Department
Australian Assembly of Fire Authorities
Australian Association of Rural Fire Authorities
Australian Fire Protection Association
Business and Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Commonwealth Fire Board
Department of Administrative Services
Department of Defence
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia
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AS 2444—1990

Australian Standard®

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Selection and location**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Fire Extinguishers, to supersede AS 2444—1985.

This edition includes information on wet chemical (stored pressure) type fire extinguishers which are specifically designed to control fires involving cooking oils and fats. These extinguishers also have a rating for 'A' class fires.

Criteria for the selection of extinguishers are based on extinguisher classification and rating, while requirements for the location and distribution of extinguishers take account of extinguisher classification and rating, and of potential hazard classification.

For some time, it has been a requirement that portable fire extinguishers carry a classification and rating which indicates the size of fire against which they can be expected to be effective. A list of extinguishers which have been tested is available from the Quality Assurance and Certification Department at the Head Office of Standards Australia.

Commonwealth and State regulations require all fire extinguishers to comply with the relevant Australian Standard and to bear the StandardsMark. In a number of areas, regulations nominate extinguishers of specific types and sizes for certain applications. In other circumstances, building configuration or occupancy may preclude adherence to travel distances specified in the Standard. In this event, the extinguishers may require to be grouped in banks at appropriate intervals and locations, i.e. hydrant points, etc.

It should be noted that extinguishers bearing the StandardsMark with body-stamped dates from 1976 to 1981 (inclusive) may be found to be labelled with a 'C' classification denoting suitability for use on electrical hazards, e.g. 2A;10B;C. Extinguishers so labelled were produced to comply with AS 1850—1976 and may be selected and located in accordance with this Standard.

Australian Standards dealing with portable fire extinguishers are as follows:

AS

- 1841 Portable fire extinguishers—Water (gas container) type
- 1842 Portable fire extinguishers—Water and wet chemical (stored pressure) type
- 1844 Portable fire extinguishers—Foam (gas container) type
- 1845 Portable fire extinguishers—Foam (stored pressure) type
- 1846 Portable fire extinguishers—Dry chemical type
- 1847 Portable fire extinguishers—Carbon dioxide type
- 1848 Portable fire extinguishers—Halon type
- 1849 Identification colours for portable fire extinguishers
- 1850 Portable fire extinguishers—Classification, rating and fire testing
- 1851 Maintenance of fire protection equipment
- 1851.1 Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers
- 3676 Portable fire extinguishers—Guide to servicing

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Portable fire extinguishers—Selection and location

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This Standard sets out criteria for the selection of portable fire extinguishers and specifies requirements for their location and distribution.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1850 Portable fire extinguishers—Classification, rating and fire testing
- 1851 Maintenance of fire protection equipment
- 1851.1 Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers
- 2036 Manually operated fire alarm call points
- 2441 Installation of fire hose reels
- 2700 Colour standards for general purposes

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

1.3.1 Approved—approved by the Regulatory Authority.

1.3.2 Portable fire extinguisher—a first attack firefighting appliance which is designed to be carried and operated by hand and which, when charged to design capacity, has a gross mass of not greater than 23 kg.

1.3.3 Light hazard—where the amount and type of combustibles present are such that fires of only small initial size may be expected. Light hazards are classified as follows:

- (a) Class A light hazards include premises such as offices, schoolrooms, churches and assembly halls.
- (b) Class B areas where flammable liquids are stored in containers not exceeding 5 L in capacity, and the total quantity stored in any one fire compartment does not exceed 25 L.

1.3.4 Ordinary hazard—where the amount and type of combustibles present are such that fires of only moderate initial size may be expected. Ordinary hazards are classified as follows:

- (a) Class A ordinary hazards include mercantile storage and display areas, showrooms and workshops.
- (b) Class B areas where flammable liquids are stored in containers where the surface area of the liquid does not exceed 2 m², or in container storage, which does not exceed a total of 250 L in containers not greater than 20 L capacity.

1.3.5 High hazard—where the amount and type of combustibles present are such that fires of large initial size may be expected. High hazards are classified as follows:

- (a) Class A high hazards include woodworking areas, warehouses with high-piled storage, foam plastics processing and storage.
- (b) Class B areas where flammable liquids are stored in containers where the surface area of the liquid exceeds 2 m², or in container storage exceeding a total of 250 L.

1.3.6 Regulatory Authority—a Minister of the Crown, a government department or other public authority having power to issue regulations, orders or other instructions in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.