

Australian Standard™

**Portable fire extinguishers and fire
blankets—Selection and location**

Building Code of Australia
Primary referenced Standard



Standards Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP-003, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 26 October 2001 and published on 9 November 2001.

The following interests are represented on Committee FP-003:

Australasian Fire Authorities Council
Australian Association of Certification Bodies
Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
Consumer and Business Affairs Victoria
Department of Defence
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Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets—Selection and location

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee FP-003, Fire Extinguishers, to supersede AS 2444—1995.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among Australian and New Zealand representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

Criteria for the selection of extinguishers are based on extinguisher classification. The requirements for the location and distribution of extinguishers take account of extinguisher classification and rating, travel distance and floor area and 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 the extinguisher has been successfully tested.

Certain regulations require fire extinguishers to comply with the relevant Australian Standard. 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, e.g. hydrant points.

It should be noted that extinguishers with body-stamped dates from 1976 to 1981 (inclusive) may be found to be labelled with either a C or (E) classification denoting suitability for use on electrical hazards, e.g. 2A:10B:C. Such extinguishers were produced to comply with earlier editions of AS 1850, and may be selected and located in accordance with this Standard.

With the introduction of a C classification for fires involving flammable gases, these extinguishers should be relabelled to prevent confusion.

This Standard also includes a section on the selection and location of fire blankets manufactured to the requirements of AS/NZS 3504, *Fire blankets*.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Australian Standard

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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 application, location and distribution.

It includes a section which sets out criteria for the selection of fire blankets and specifies requirements for their location and distribution.

NOTE: This Standard presumes a basic level of user competence and the adequate maintenance of the equipment in accordance with AS 1851.1.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard will be referenced in the Building Code of Australia by way of BCA Amendment 10 to be published by 1 January 2002, thereby superseding AS 2444—1995, which will be withdrawn 12 months from the date of publication of this Standard.

NOTE: The BCA reference applies only to Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this Standard.

1.3 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

1.3.1 Referenced documents

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1603 Automatic fire detection and alarm systems
- 1603.5 Part 5: Manual call points
- 1851 Maintenance of fire protection equipment
- 1851.1 Part 1: Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets
- 2118 Automatic fire sprinkler systems (series)
- 2700 Colour standards for general purposes
- 4214 Gaseous fire extinguisher systems (series)

AS/NZS

- 1841 Portable fire extinguishers
- 1841.1 Part 1: General requirements
- 1850 Portable fire extinguishers—Classification, rating and performance testing
- 3000 Electrical Installations (known as the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules).
- 3504 Fire blankets

1.3.2 Related documents

Attention is drawn to the following related documents:

AS/NZS

- 1841 Portable fire extinguishers
- 1841.1 Part 1: General requirements