

GREEN MAN

COMPLIANCE

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - FACT SHEET

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 simplified fire safety legislation and imposed a range of fire safety duties on employers and people in control of premises. The employer, any responsible person and those in control of premises must take reasonable steps to reduce the risk from fire and ensure people are able to escape safely if there is a fire.

All workplaces must have appropriate arrangements for sounding an alarm in the event of a fire and a means of fighting fires. It is almost universally accepted that having conventional fire extinguishers helps organisations fulfil the requirements of the legislation and provides an appropriate means of fighting fires in their early stages. However, your fire extinguishers must conform to certain stringent requirements, be of the right type, be correctly sited, have appropriate signage and be installed, commissioned and regularly inspected and maintained by competent personnel. The importance of having the right extinguishers was highlighted in a 2002 survey undertaken by FETA (Fire Extinguishing Trade Association) into reported incidents that involved fire and the use of portable fire extinguishers. It was found that around 80% of all fires were extinguished before the arrival of the emergency services and that portable fire extinguishers formed the first line of defence in extinguishing the fire and aiding escape.

The British Standard BS 5306 parts 3 and 8 govern the selection, siting and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers. This Standard was updated in 2009 which, amongst other things, clarified the frequency of testing for fire extinguishers. Basic servicing should now be undertaken annually with a tolerance of +/- one month whilst extended servicing for water, water based and powder extinguishers should be carried out every 5 years from the date of commissioning or 6 years from the date of manufacturing, whichever is the sooner. Primary sealed types (including CO₂) should be fully serviced every 10 years from the date of commissioning or 11 years from the date of manufacture, whichever is the sooner.

Green Man Compliance only supplies high quality extinguishers that meet the European EN3 standard and are sourced from well known British suppliers. All installation, commissioning and servicing is undertaken in accordance with BS5306 part 3 and part 8. We will provide advice and guidance on whether you have sufficient extinguisher coverage and make recommendations regarding best practice and general fire safety.

All prices that Green Man Compliance quotes for servicing includes consumable items (tamper evident seals, 'o' rings, seals etc). Extended servicing and repairs will only be undertaken after prior consultation with your responsible person or other nominated contact. A comprehensive report extinguisher inspection and servicing certificate is provided for all clients.