



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHER REGULATIONS IN EFFECT

The State Fire Marshal's Fire Extinguisher Study Guide has been updated to reflect recent revisions to California's fire extinguisher regulations that became effective on January 1, 2003. This Study Guide is available electronically on our website at:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fireextinguisher.html>

Highlights of some of the changes to Title 19 include:

- **560 (f) General Provisions and Fee Schedule.**
Any license revision requiring a physical inspection of a licensed concern will cost \$125.
- **574.6 (a)(b) Recordkeeping.**
Monthly inspections must be recorded on a tag or label attached to the fire extinguisher, or an inspection checklist maintained on file, or an electronic system (e.g. bar coding) that provides a permanent record.
- **575.3 Exception Maintenance Procedures.**
Certain fire extinguishers do not require internal examination during annual maintenance. Extinguishers still require external examination following applicable maintenance procedures.
- **575.4 Dry Chemical and Dry Powder Portable Fire Extinguishers.**
Every six years, stored pressure dry chemical and dry powder fire extinguishers that require a 12-year hydrostatic test must be discharged, emptied and subjected to the applicable maintenance procedures.
- **578.10 Leak Test.**
After charging, a leak test is required and must be performed by following the manufacturer's requirements.
- **594.3 Test Equipment for Low Pressure Non-D.O.T. Specification Cylinders and Hose Assemblies.**
Low pressure non-DOT cylinders and hose assemblies must be tested within a protective cage device, or placed behind a protective shield that will permit visual observation.

- **594.5 Recording of Tests.**
A written or electronic log must be maintained of all low-pressure (non-D.O.T.) cylinders that are hydrostatically tested.
- **595.5 (a)(3) License Types.**
A Type C license holder must possess specified test equipment to conduct hydrostatic tests of low-pressure fire extinguisher cylinders.
- **595.5 (f) License Types.**
A prospective licensee must provide specific written proof of their service qualifications in order to be licensed.

SIX YEAR TEAR DOWN IMPLEMENTATION POLICY

- Internal maintenance will be conducted in 2003 to insure that all Internal Maintenance Tags are removed.
- New stored pressure dry chemical fire extinguisher shall not be subject to an internal maintenance examination until six years after the date of manufacture, except:
 1. When recharged, or
 2. If required monthly or annual external maintenance indicates the need

A Verification of Service Collar shall be affixed upon completion of any required internal maintenance.

- Upon completion of any required hydrostatic test, internal maintenance shall be performed and a Verification of Service Collar shall be affixed.
- Articles 12 through 23 should not be referenced, as they are archaic and redundant. SFM staff is working with the Office of Administrative Law to repeal these sections.

NOTE! Normally, stored pressure dry chemical or dry power fire extinguisher mounted on vehicles require an internal maintenance examination annually and 5 year hydrostatic.

For more information concerning the State Fire Marshal's Fire Extinguisher Program, please contact Sr. Deputy James Parsegian by phone at (916) 445-6787 or by Email at: james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov