



National Security Inspectorate

Sentinel House, 5 Reform Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8BY

E: nsi@nsi.org.uk | W: nsi.org.uk

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To: All NSI Fire Gold and Fire Silver BAFE SP101 approved companies and applicants

TECHNICAL BULLETIN No: 0042

Revision of BS 5306-3

BS 5306-3:2017 has a publication date of 31 October 2017 and is available through licensed outlets including NSI who can supply copies at a discounted rate.

Implementation timescale for Applicant Companies

Applicant Companies will be audited against BS 5306-3:2017 with immediate effect and any Improvement Needs recorded against clauses of the Standard will have to be satisfactorily addressed before approval can be granted.

Implementation timescale for existing Approved Companies

Existing NSI approved companies will be audited against BS 5306-3:2017 with immediate effect. Where companies are found to be non-compliant with the recommendations of the new standard Improvement Observation or Improvement Need reports will be raised accordingly.

Note regarding the status of BS 5306-3:2017

Although issued as a code of practice by the British Standards Institution, it is important to note that compliance with the recommendations given in BS 5306-3:2017 is regarded as mandatory for all companies wishing to maintain an NSI approval; subject to any additional clarifications and guidance included within this Technical Bulletin or issued subsequently.

The recommendations given in BS5306-3:2017 must therefore be regarded as requirements in relation to NSI approval for Fire Gold and Fire Silver BAFE SP101 scheme.

Details of the changes

Where the actual wording of the standard is quoted, it is reproduced in bold text.

Where it is considered relevant to further clarify the specified requirement, additional guidance is included in italics.

We will consider alternative methods of achieving compliance with specified requirements where these can be demonstrated to be equivalent.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 5306 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2017. It was prepared by Technical Committee FSH/2, Fire extinguishers. A list of organisations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 5306 supersedes BS 5306-3:2009, which is withdrawn.

BRITISH STANDARD BS 5306-3:2017

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard and introduces the following principal changes:

- **greater clarification given of the procedures;**
- **improvement of the layout of the standard to improve ease of reading and interpretation;**
- **recognition of changes in relevant legislation;**
- **reference to fire risk assessments;**
- **clarification of linkage to BS 5306-8;**
- **inclusion of references to BS 5306-9;**
- **addition of fire safety logbooks;**
- **reordering of annexes as follows:**
 - **Annex A – commissioning;**
 - **Annex B – basic service;**
 - **Annex C – extended service;**
 - **Annex D – recharge;**

- **Annex E – overhaul;**
- **Annex F – halon extinguishers;**
- **Annex G – examples of labels;**
- **Annex H – extinguishers conforming to withdrawn British Standards;**
- **Annex I – training of the competent person.**

The Foreword clarifies that the 2017 edition **is a full revision of the Standard**, and that it **supersedes BS 5306-3:2009, which is withdrawn**.

1 Scope

There have been no changes to the scope covered by BS 5306-3:2017.

2 Normative references

Additional Normative references have been added and existing ones have been updated.

3 Terms and definitions

3.3 body cover

non-pressure-bearing outer case of an extinguisher.

This is a new definition not included in previous revisions of the standard.

Definitions of “body shell” (old Clause 3.4) and “test discharge” (old Clause 3.17) have been removed from the new standard.

4 Safety precautions for extinguishers

This is a new clause giving guidance on safety precautions for the opening of different types of extinguishers and the charging of powder extinguishers.

5 Installation

This clause replaces the old Clause 4 and has been retitled “Installation”. The clause gives recommendations for the commissioning and mounting of new extinguishers and includes additional guidance.

Note: the recommendations given in the old Clause 5 "Visual Inspection By The Responsible Person" are now included in BS 5306-3:2017, Clause 11.2.

6 Maintenance intervals

This clause has been retitled. It has also been reworded and extended for clarification.

7 Labelling

This clause includes recommendations which were contained previously in BS 5306-3:2009, Clause 6.2.

7.1 Application of labelling

This clause contains new recommendations and a note on the application of service labels.

7.2 Maintenance label

The recommendation of **Clause 7.2(e)** has been amended so **the measured mass of the extinguisher at the time of maintenance, in kilograms** should be recorded on the maintenance label.

BS 5306-3:2009, Clause 6.2.2(e2) allowed for the difference between the measured mass at the time of service and the initial recorded mass at commissioning to be recorded on the maintenance label. This is no longer permitted.

7.3 Corrective action label

This is a new clause requiring the type of corrective action required to be marked on the maintenance label as well as a "caution" or "warning label" to be applied to the extinguisher informing the prospective operator of potentially non-conforming equipment.

8 Recharging of extinguishers

This was the "old" Clause 7 of BS 5306-3:2009.

References to BS 6643-1 have been updated to **BS 5306-9**.

Recommendations for the recharging of halon, clean agent and CO₂ extinguishers have been updated and clarified.

9 Replacement of components

This was the “old” Clause 8 of BS 5306-3:2009.

Reference to **BS 5306-9** has now been included and recommendations have been updated and extended.

A recommendation has been included stating that where the extinguishing media is found to be below the mass or volume specified then additional media should not be added to that already contained within the extinguisher (i.e. “topping up” of media is not allowed).

10 Evaluation of fitness for service of extinguishers and actions to be taken

This was the “old” Clause 9 of BS 5306-3:2009.

Clause 10.2.2 contains additional conditions which may indicate that an extinguisher is unsafe for use.

Clause 10.2.3 is a new clause which includes recommendations contained in BS 5306-3:2009, Clause 9.2.2 (points 1 – 4).

Clause 10.2.4 is a new clause giving recommendations for obsolete extinguishers.

Clause 10.3 is a new clause giving recommendations for extinguishers which require corrective action.

11 Information to be provided to the responsible person

11.1 Provision of a written report

This was the “old” Clause 9.4.1.1 of BS 5306-3:2009. The new clause has been extended to include additional recommendations regarding information that is to be contained within the written report provided to the responsible person.

11.2 Instructions for visual inspection

Clause 11.2 includes the recommendations previously contained in BS 5396-3:2009, Clause 5.

Clause 11.2(b) item 5 has been reworded.

Clause 11.2(b) item 6 is a new recommendation.

Clause 11.2(b) item 7 has been reworded.

11.3 Fire risk assessment

Clause 11.3 is a new clause giving recommendations on information relating to the provision of fire extinguishers that should be included in a fire risk assessment.

It recommends:

“The competent person should advise the responsible person that the fire risk assessment in respect of the requirement for extinguishers should cover at least the following:

- a) any potential fire hazard;**
- b) any requirements over and above the minimum scale of provision in BS 5306-8;**
- c) any specified minimum numbers of spare extinguishers.**

The “competent person” should advise the “responsible person” of these recommendations.

It also recommends **“the competent person should obtain, wherever practicable, the fire risk assessment for the premises at the time of maintenance.”**

Clause 11.4 is a new clause giving recommendations the **“competent person”** should advise the **“responsible person”** to record information in the fire logbook in relation to any events that **occur in respect of the extinguishers.**

Annex A – Commissioning service procedures

This was Annex B in BS 5306-3:2009.

The commissioning schedule has been updated and reformatted for clarity.

Annex B – Basic service procedures

This was Annex D in BS 5306-3:2009.

The basic servicing schedule has been updated and reformatted for clarity.

Annex C – Extended service procedures

This was Annex E in BS 5306-3:2009.

The extended servicing schedule has been updated and reformatted for clarity.

Annex D – Recharge service procedures

This is a new annex detailing the procedures to be followed when recharging portable fire extinguishers.

Annex E - Overhaul, including periodic inspection and test procedures for CO₂, clean agent and halon extinguishers

This was Annex F in BS 5306-3:2009. The annex has been reworded for clarity.

Annex F – Halon extinguishers

This was Annex E in BS 5306-3:2009.

Annex G – Examples of labels

This is a new annex giving examples of labels that may be used by a fire extinguisher servicing organisation.

Annex H- Extinguishers manufactured in accordance with withdrawn British Standards

The text in this annex has been updated.

Annex I – Training of competent persons

This was Annex A in BS 5306-3:2009.

The recommendations for initial theoretical training have been updated to include the provisions of BS 5306-9.

The recommendations for refresher training have been updated to include recharging.