

Welcome to Version 8 of the Guide to the Selection and Location of Portable Fire Extinguishers and Fire Blankets dated April 07. As a result of the release of Australian Standard 1851 – 2005 and a review of the Guide's existing content, changes have been incorporated in the following areas:-

- Specific Provisions.
- The definition of an Emergency switchboard.
- The Service intervals for fire extinguishers.
- The maintenance record label.
- Maintenance schedules.
- Service intervals for fire blankets.

**Specific Provisions (Pages 6, 8 & 11):** - We originally interpreted the intent of BCA Table E1.6 as meaning that, where extinguishers were to be installed in a 9C or health care building, in a residential part of a correctional or detention centre or in accommodation for children, the aged or people with disabilities that special provisions were made to have the extinguisher installed in the nurses station or the like so that they would not be near those trained to use them and not subjected to misuse by children or the occupants of a detention or correctional centre.

However, through further discussions and by revisiting the words contained in Table E1.6 we have altered our view. Note 2: of Table E1.6 reads, "A Class E fire extinguisher need only be located at each nurse, supervisor's station or the like." This note instructs us that where Class 'A' and Class 'E' extinguishers are to be installed in those buildings to which the Specific Provision apply, the Class 'E' extinguisher need only be located at each nurse, supervisors station or the like however, the Class 'A' extinguisher must be located as per Australian Standard 2444 e.g. so that the travel distance to an extinguisher does not exceed 15 metres even if there are hose reels installed or not.

**The definition of an Emergency switchboard (Page 8):** - The definition of an emergency services switchboard has not necessarily been changed but rather expanded to give the user a better understanding of what exactly is an Emergency Services Switchboard as outlined in Clause C2.13 of the BCA.

**The Service intervals for fire extinguishers (Page 19):** - Rather than the 6 monthly (1), yearly (2), 3 yearly (3), 6 yearly (4) and after-use procedures (5) that were required by Australian Standard 1851 – 1998, Australian Standard 1851 - 2005 has both reduced and deleted some of these inspection. Inspection are now required at 6 monthly (1), yearly (2) and 5 yearly (4) and are marked on the tag or label with the corresponding number.

Whereas before it was necessary to mark the tag or label with a '5' for 'after-use' procedures, this is no longer required.

**The maintenance record label (Page 19):** - If you are working in the industry or carrying out an auditing role you will have noticed by now that an adhesive label is now available to record maintenance schedules in lieu of the metal tag. A part from being flexible and adhesive, the label is exactly the same of the tag in appearance. The 12 months are shown along the top to indicate the month of the year the service was carried out and the years down the right and left hand sides indicate the year in which the service and/or hydrostatic testing took place. The label is to be adhered to the back of the extinguisher cylinder and shall not cover any important information.

**Maintenance schedules (Pages 20 – 24):** - Due to the deletion of the 3 yearly and 6 yearly schedules, the servicing events have been rearranged to be included in the new 6 monthly, yearly and 5 yearly schedules. In addition to this, whereas before the servicing included an inspection, testing and maintenance component, with the release of Australian Standard 1851-2005, a survey schedule has now been included.

**Service intervals for fire blankets (Page 25):** - The service interval for fire blankets has been reduced from yearly to 6 monthly.