



Technical Bulletin #127-0620

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Subject: Field Fire Extinguisher Hydrostatic Test Requirements

All fire extinguishers are considered to be pressurized mechanical devices, which require periodic service to ensure that they will operate effectively and safely when needed in the event of a fire.

For safety reasons, various federal regulations and NFPA requirements specifically dictate the periodic hydrostatic re-testing of designated pressurized fire extinguisher cylinders and certain hose assemblies in the field, at pre-established maximum intervals that range between 5 and 12 years. Per code, any fire extinguisher not meeting applicable hydrostatic test requirements, should not be tagged or left in service.

Hydro testing requires the utilization of specialized test equipment, adaptors, fittings, hoses, gauges and protective safety devices to address various integrity objectives. To ensure safety, hydro testing functions can only be performed by properly trained, qualified and certified service personnel.

These testing procedures involve a thorough external and internal examination of designated cylinders and certain hose assemblies for any potential signs of weakness, damage or corrosion, as well as performing a detailed pressure integrity verification test to designated pressures using a non-compressible medium such as water. Upon successfully passing all such steps, the hydro test process must be recorded, documented and properly labeled before the subject fire extinguisher can be recharged and placed back into service.

Beyond the detailed TC, DOT and CGA-C-1 requirements, additional information specifically associated with fire extinguisher hydrostatic testing recommendations are identified within chapter-8 of the NFPA-10 "Portable Fire Extinguisher" standard. Proper test pressures are reflected on product nameplates and referenced within the applicable fire extinguisher's service manual.

For assistance in obtaining additional information on hydrostatic testing requirements or assistance with locating your nearest factory authorized and trained fire extinguisher service representative, contact your local regional Badger/Kidde sales manager or call Customer Service at 800-446-3857.