



A UTC Fire & Security Company

Badger Fire Protection  
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# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## #106-0110

**Date: May 2001**

### **Subject: Conditions for Maintaining an Extinguisher's Approval Listing in the Field**

Sometimes it can be very difficult and awkward trying to explain why an extinguisher that looks good can no longer be serviced or must be removed from service and replaced. While most equipment manufacturers typically void product warranties whenever proper equipment service is not performed in accordance with their recommendations, there are some more important issues to also consider when it comes to servicing fire extinguishers in the field.

For many obsolete and older models of fire extinguishers manufactured by companies no longer able to provide proper OEM parts or agent, improper service can not only compromise listings and violate various fire code compliance requirements, but also jeopardize insurance coverage.

Because federal regulations and NFPA codes specify that only listed portable fire extinguishers can be used for compliance, it is important that service organizations understand just what specifically is required for maintaining that fire extinguisher's product listing out in the field.

1. To maintain extinguisher listings in the field, extinguishers must be properly serviced and recharged in accordance with the instructions contained within NFPA-10, the extinguisher nameplate and original equipment manufacturers service manual.
2. The use of any parts or extinguishing agents not specifically identified upon the nameplate or OEM service manual will void the product listing. (Classified dry chemical recharge agents that specifically bear the extinguisher model and manufacturer's name upon the agent container's approval agency label, may also meet the requirements of NFPA-10.)
3. Whenever OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) service parts or recharge agent is no longer available to properly perform the necessary service, recharge or maintenance required, that extinguisher's listing is no longer considered to be valid.

To further support this information, Badger has identified a few code references and provided a copy of an approval agency letter from Underwriters Laboratories to clarify these requirements.

29-CFR OSHA 2006 Code of Federal Regulations:

1910.155 (c)(3)(i)(A), 1910.155 (c)(3)(i)(B), 1910.155 (c)(3)(i)(C), 1910.155 (c)(3)(i)(D)

1910.157 (c)(2)

2010 Edition NFPA-10 Portable Extinguisher Standard:

4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.4.2, 7.4.1.4.1, 7.4.1.4.2, 7.4.3.1.1

Hopefully this helps explain the various hand portable fire extinguisher service requirements and regulations required for properly maintaining product listings in the field.



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February 28, 2001

Ms. Susan Young  
Fire Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA)  
1300 Sumner Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115-2851

Subject: UL Listings of Fire Extinguishers

Dear Ms. Young:

The following information is provided to assist FEMA members in clarifying the requirements to maintain the UL Listing of a fire extinguisher in the field.

1. To maintain its UL Listing, a fire extinguisher is to be serviced and maintained in accordance with NFPA 10, the instructions on the extinguisher nameplate and the manufacturer's Service and Owner's Manuals.
2. The use of any parts or agent not specifically identified on the extinguisher nameplate or in the manufacturer's Manuals, or the use of an agent that is not specifically UL Classified for use in recharging the specific manufacturer and model of fire extinguisher, does not maintain the UL Listing for that fire extinguisher, and therefore, would not be considered UL Listed.
3. When the proper service parts or agent for recharging are no longer available for a specific model UL Listed fire extinguisher, the Listing for that extinguisher cannot be maintained in accordance with the extinguisher nameplate, the manufacturer's manuals and NFPA 10, and therefore, would not be considered UL Listed.

Sincerely,

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