



Badger Fire Protection
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A UTC Fire & Security Company

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Subject: Badger Extinguisher ANSI/UL Test Standard Harmonization Changes

In 2002 attempts to standardize various portable fire extinguisher test protocol differences between Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) were initiated. Effective February 14th 2011 fire equipment manufacturers were required to comply with all of the new harmonized testing standards in order to obtain product listing approvals. While the new procedure changes primarily affect fire equipment manufacturers they result in some noticeable extinguisher changes that might raise questions in the field and require some explanation.

One of the most notable portable fire extinguisher changes resulting from harmonization is how the Class "A" fire test procedures are conducted within the ANSI/UL-711 standard and its impact on the fire ratings typically associated with certain sizes of fire extinguishers. Because the new harmonized numerical Class "A" fire test procedures require slightly larger configurations of crib fires and establish longer pre-burn requirements before attempting extinguishment, some larger extinguisher models may now have lower numerical fire ratings. Some examples of lower Class "A" fire extinguisher rating changes include:

- 10 pound extinguisher models changing from 10A to 4A ratings
- 20 pound extinguisher models changing from 20A to 6A or 10A ratings
- 30 pound extinguisher models changing from 20A to 10A ratings
- 50 pound extinguisher models changing from 30A to 20A ratings

It is important to point out that in most cases the equipment has not changed, only the fire testing method for how they are being rated. Most fire extinguisher models typically still deliver the same level of performance that they did prior to the implementation of the new harmonized fire test standard requirements.

While the Portable Fire Extinguisher Standard (NFPA-10) does not specify any Class "A" numerical fire ratings higher than 4A, there are a few other NFPA standards which reference and require higher numerical Class "A" fire ratings. Where these higher rating requirements exist, larger fire extinguisher models may become necessary for compliance.

The ANSI/UL-154 standard for carbon dioxide fire extinguishers also made some intermittent discharge requirement changes, which ultimately resulted in the extinguisher's low temperature approval limits being changed from -40F (-40C) to -22F (-30 C). As a result, you will notice our various carbon dioxide model designations have also changed. Because the gaseous discharge of carbon dioxide fire extinguishers are seldom selected, specified or utilized with outdoor applications, the cold temperature operating limitation change is expected to have minimal market impact.

Should you have any specific fire extinguisher model questions, please refer to the current product literature specifications available on our web site www.badgerfire.com or contact Badger Fire Protection directly at (434) 964-3200.