

ALTERNATIVE TAGS FOR OUTDOOR PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition (NFC(AE)), Division B, Article 6.1.1.5.(3), requires portable fire extinguishers to have a tag securely attached. However, sometimes this tag is accidentally damaged or detached due to weather exposure (e.g. wind tears the tag from the extinguisher or the tag becomes unreadable).

DISCUSSION

Safety personnel conducting the monthly and annual inspections have expressed concerns that many 40B:C or 80B:C fire extinguishers on commercial equipment located outdoors are missing their tags due to the manner and environment in which these extinguishers are placed. Extinguishers with missing tags are deemed “out of service” until such time another inspection can be conducted and another tag is placed on the extinguisher.

CODE REFERENCES

Article 6.1.1.5.(3) states:

6.1.1.5. Records

- 3) Except as permitted by Sentence (4), each portable extinguisher shall have a tag securely attached to it showing
- a) the type of extinguisher,
 - b) the size of extinguisher,
 - c) the serial number of extinguisher,
 - d) the date of last annual maintenance,
 - e) the date of last recharge,
 - f) a five-year monthly inspection and annual maintenance record,
 - g) the name of the *owner* of the extinguisher,
 - h) the name, address and telephone number of the service agency,
 - i) the certification number of the *approved* testing agency, and
 - j) the printed name and signature of the service person.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition.

Issuance of this STANDATA is authorized by
the Provincial Fire Administrator

[original signed]
Tina Parker

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font with a small blue square at the end of the word.

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VARIANCE

To help alleviate the issue of tags being damaged or destroyed due to weather exposure, the following actions may be taken:

Companies that have 40B:C or higher rated fire extinguishers located outdoors on their commercial equipment may request their extinguisher servicing company use adhesive labels that meet the requirements of 6.1.1.5.(3). Adhesive labels can only be utilized on fire extinguishers directly subjected to the weather elements. Any extinguisher rated for less than 40B:C, or located inside building structures will continue to require a securely attached tag.

More specifically, adhesive labels are to be placed on the backside of the fire extinguisher ONLY. They are never to be placed on the front of a fire extinguisher. The new label shall be affixed to the shell by a heatless process, and any old maintenance labels shall be removed. The labels shall be of the self-destructive type when their removal from a fire extinguisher is attempted. Records shall be kept on a tag or label attached to the fire extinguisher, on an inspection checklist maintained on file or by an electronic method that provides a permanent record.

This variance provides approximately equivalent or greater safety performance with respect to persons and property as that provided for by the Safety Codes Act.

This VARIANCE replaces the following:

AFC 6.1.1.5.(3), Alternative Tags for Outdoor Portable Fire Extinguishers

This VARIANCE is applicable throughout the province of Alberta.