

Fire Armour Singapore

From: SCDF FSM SCDF <SCDF_FSM@scdf.gov.sg>
Sent: 04 June 2019 11:50
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Subject: Communication to Building Industry on Portable Fire Extinguishers

Dear FSMs,

Portable Fire Extinguishers for Class C Fires

This email seeks to remind industry professionals that [portable fire extinguishers FEs\) should only display markings for the categories of fires they have been certified for](#). FEs which are not certified to fight Class C fires which refer to fires involving flammable gases, according to SS 578:2012 should not be labelled with the Class C markings when used in projects, buildings and premises in Singapore. This requirement is applicable to FEs certified or renewed from 1 May 2013 onwards.

Communication of requirement

2. SCDF had previously communicated this requirement through circulars on 23 and 24 Jan 2013, on the adoption of SS 578:2012 and SS EN 3-7:2012 to SS EN 3-10:2012, respectively.

3. Specifically, SS EN 3-7 states that for Class C fires, the manufacturer “shall be required to provide evidence of suitability to the relevant authority and the Certification Body before listing”. SS 578 also states that there is “no fire test” for Class C, and “the classification and rating of Class C) extinguisher shall be the responsibility of the manufacturers with the approval of the relevant authority”. To date, neither SCDF nor the three accredited Certification Bodies, i.e. TUV SUD PSB, Setsco Services Pte Ltd and Singapore Test Services Pte Ltd have approved or certified FEs for Class C fires.

Rationale of standards

4. As there is no recognised testing method for Class C extinguishers, such extinguishers are not tested for Class C fires. Furthermore, as SS 578 explains under Section 2.2.5 Special precautions for Class C and D fires), it is “not desirable to encourage untrained personnel to tackle Class C fires”, and “in the event of gas leakage become ignited, it should be extinguished only by closing the valve or plugging the leak. If, however, it is unsafe to approach the container, no attempt should be made to extinguish the flame in any other way”. Given the above, SCDF does not want to convey the impression that extinguishment using portable FEs is a safe way to fight Class C fires.

Action requested

5. [SCDF seeks the assistance of industry professionals to ensure that all FEs only display the markings for classes of fires which the Certification Bodies have certified them for. In particular, for FEs certified or renewed from 1 May 2013 onwards, these should not display Class C markings, as no FE has been certified for this class. If the FE in your premises show Class C markings, please contact the FE supplier/manufacturer to make the rectification.](#)

6. [For FEs which are certified prior to 1 May 2013, these may continue to display Class C markings, if applicable, until the Certificate of Conformity CoC\) is renewed. After CoC renewal, the FEs shall comply with the latest requirements as of today, this is as stated in para. 2 and 3.](#) Notwithstanding the above, the principle remains that the public are not encouraged to use these FEs to fight Class C fires and the guidelines stated in *para. 4* should apply.

7. For FEs certified for other classes of fires, these may still be used to fight the specific type of fires they are certified for. For example, an extinguisher with Classes A and F marking may still be used to fight Class A solid combustibles, e.g. paper, wood, plastics, etc. and Class F fires e.g. cooking oils and fats) respectively.

8. Please convey the full contents of this e-mail to members of your Board/Institution/ Association. For any inquiry or clarification, please write to SCDF’s Product Listing Scheme team at scdf_pls@scdf.gov.sg.

9. Thank you and with warmest regards.

SCDF e-Fire Safety Manager Portal

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