

AS/NZS 1850:1997
(Incorporating Amendment No. 1)

AS/NZS 1850

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Portable fire extinguishers—
Classification, rating and
performance testing**



Standards Australia



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NEW ZEALAND
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AS/NZS 1850:1997

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 24 December 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 31 January 1997. It was published on 5 April 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee FP/3:

Asset Services Department of Administration Services
Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Australian Fire Authorities Council
Australian Fire Protection Association
Commonwealth Fire Board
Consumers' Federation of Australia
Department of Defence
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (Australia)
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia
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Portable fire extinguishers— Classification, rating and performance testing

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee FP/3 on Fire Extinguishers to supersede AS 1850—1994 and NZS 4507:1978, and provide a common test regime for use in Australia and New Zealand.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (July 2001). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note table, figure or part thereof affected.

The Standard was originally prepared following a request from manufacturers to develop a system of classification and rating of fire extinguishers by test fires in order that an extinguishant could be given a rating appropriate to the class of fire. The ultimate classification and rating of an extinguisher or its recommended use is based on its fire-extinguishing potential as determined by the appropriate tests.

It is pointed out that, irrespective of its fire-extinguishing potential, the extinguisher must comply with the requirements of the appropriate Australian Standard according to its extinguishant.

In preparing this Standard, the Committee considered that water-type extinguishers should have a classification and rating allotted without extinguishing an actual test fire, provided that such extinguishers complied with the appropriate design and performance requirements for a capacity of not less than 9 L, effective range and duration of discharge.

This Standard sets out a series of type tests for fire extinguishers designed and manufactured to AS/NZS 1841, *Portable fire extinguishers*, to establish their fire-extinguishing potential. The tests cover an extinguisher's capability of controlling fires classified as A, B, C, D and F, together with the suitability of the extinguishant's for use on fires involving energized electrical equipment.

The resulting classification, performance rated values and capabilities are given on the front label of each extinguisher to assist the purchaser in selecting the appropriate type of extinguisher for the expected hazard.

Requirements for portable fire extinguishers are specified by the following Standards:

AS/NZS

1841	Portable fire extinguishers
1841.1	Part 1: General requirements
1841.2	Part 2: Water type
1841.3	Part 3: Wet chemical type
1841.4	Part 4: Foam type
1841.5	Part 5: Powder type
1841.6	Part 6: Carbon dioxide type
1841.7	Part 7: Vaporizing-liquid type
1841.8	Part 8: Non-rechargeable type
4353	Portable fire extinguishers—Aerosol type

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