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AS 2444—1995

Australian Standard®

Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets—Selection and location

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP/3, Fire Extinguishers. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 October 1994 and published on 5 January 1995.

The following interests are represented on Committee FP/3:

Aerosol Association of Australia
Australian Construction Services
Australian Fire Authorities Council
Australian Fire Protection Association
Commonwealth Fire Board, Australia
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Defence, Australia
Department of the Arts and Administrative Services
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs, Australia
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia
Fire Trainers Association of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee FP/3 on Fire Extinguishers to supersede AS 2444—1990 as an Australian Standard.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among Australian and New Zealand representatives on the Joint Committee to provide it as an Australian Standard.

This edition includes information on wet chemical (stored pressure) type fire extinguishers which are specifically designed to control fires involving cooking oils and fats. These extinguishers also have a rating for A class fires.

Criteria for the selection of extinguishers are based on extinguisher classification, rating and capability. The requirements for the location and distribution of extinguishers take account of extinguisher classification, rating and capability, and potential hazard classification.

For some time it has been a requirement that portable fire extinguishers carry a classification and rating which indicates the size of fire against which the extinguisher has been successfully tested.

Certain regulations require fire extinguishers to comply with the relevant Australian Standard. In a number of areas, regulations nominate extinguishers of specific types and sizes for certain applications. In other circumstances, building configuration or occupancy may preclude adherence to travel distances specified in the Standard. In this event, the extinguishers may require to be grouped in banks at appropriate intervals and locations, e.g. hydrant points.

It should be noted that extinguishers with body-stamped dates from 1976 to 1981 (inclusive) may be found to be labelled with a C classification denoting suitability for use on electrical hazards, e.g. 2A:10B:C. Such extinguishers were produced to comply with AS 1850—1976, *Portable fire extinguishers—Classification, rating and fire testing*, and may be selected and located in accordance with this Standard.

With the introduction of a C classification for fires involving flammable gases, these extinguishers should be relabelled to prevent confusion.

This Standard also includes a section on the selection and location of fire blankets manufactured to the requirements of AS 3504, *Fire blankets.*

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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