

HAVE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SERVICED AND TAGGED

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire code 2006 Edition

906.1 Where required. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations.

1. In new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4 and S occupancies.

Exception: In new and existing Group A, B and E occupancies equipped throughout with quick-response sprinklers, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in 2 through 6.

2. Within 30 feet (9144 mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 1415.1.
5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the fire code official.

906.5 Conspicuous location. Extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use. These locations shall be along normal paths of travel, unless the fire code official determines

that the hazard posed indicates the need for placement away from normal paths of travel.

906.6 Unobstructed and unobscured. Fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. In rooms or areas in which visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, means shall be provided to indicate the locations of extinguishers.

906.7 Hangers and brackets. Hand-held portable fire extinguishers, not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

906.8 Cabinets. Cabinets used to house fire extinguishers shall not be locked.

Exceptions:

1. Where fire extinguishers subject to malicious use or damage are provided with a means of ready access.
2. In Group I-3 occupancies and in mental health areas in Group I-2 occupancies, access to portable fire extinguishers shall be permitted to be locked or to be located in staff locations provided the staff has keys.

906.9 Height above floor. Portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 pounds (18 kg) shall be installed so that its top is not more than 5 feet (1524 mm) above the floor. Hand-held portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight exceeding 40 pounds (18 kg) shall be installed so that its top is not more than 3.5 feet (1067 mm) above the floor. The clearance between the floor and the bottom of installed hand-held extinguishers shall not be less than 4 inches (102 mm).

EXPLANATION

All fire extinguishers are required to be serviced by a state certified fire extinguisher technician annually and after each use, no matter how little amount of agent was discharged. A tag must be placed on the fire extinguisher by the technician and must remain on the unit for the fire inspector to see.

Many fire extinguishers today are considered disposable and cannot be serviced annually. These fire extinguishers must be disposed of and replaced every year.

RATIONALE

Your fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish a fire at the incipient or beginning phase of a fire. The fire extinguisher's effectiveness may be diminished without proper inspection and servicing by a licensed technician. For instance, most fire extinguishers today utilize a chemical powder as its extinguishing agent. This powder will settle to the bottom of the unit and solidify there, thus rendering the unit inoperable. An annual inspection and service will help to verify the operational readiness of the fire extinguisher.

Fire extinguishers also need servicing after each use as they are designed to be fully discharged whenever they are used. Even if used improperly and only a small amount of the agent is discharged on a small fire, the unit still must be serviced as the amount of fire the unit can extinguish is now reduced.