

Table 4.1: General Requirements of Fire Extinguishers

ITEMS	REQUIREMENTS
6. OPERATION AND USE	<p><u>2. RECOGNITION OF EQUIPMENT AS AN EXTINGUISHER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Permanent marking on the front of fire extinguishers shall be present, indicating their purpose, content and usage. ii. Additional signage, not a part of the device, shall be provided to indicate the location of a fire extinguisher. These preferably should be standardized throughout the property so that all fire extinguishers are easily “spotted.” These markings could be in the form of electric lights, placards, mounting boards, overhead signs, color panels or stripes, or cabinets. iii. If fire extinguishers are located along the normal exit paths from an area, personnel are more inclined to take them and return to the site of a fire. <p><u>3. TRANSPORT OF A FIRE EXTINGUISHER TO THE FIRE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A fire extinguisher should be mounted and located so it can be easily removed in a fire emergency and brought to the site of the fire as quickly as possible. It should be readily accessible without need for moving or climbing over stock, materials or equipment. ii. Quick transport of an extinguisher depends on several factors such as weight of the extinguisher, travel distance to fire location, using stairs, using gloves, congestion of premises, physical ability of the user. Preplanning shall address all these issues to successful and efficient use of fire extinguishers. iii. In the case of wheeled fire extinguishers, the width of aisles and doorways and the nature of the flooring and outside grounds over which the fire extinguisher needs to be moved should be taken into account. <p><u>4. ACTUATION OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Once the fire extinguisher has been transported to the fire site, it should be placed into operation without delay. Employees should be familiar with any steps needed to actuate any fire extinguisher. Here is where previous training is most valuable, since there is little time to stop and read operating instructions on the nameplate. ii. Position for Operation. The intended position for operation is usually marked on the fire extinguisher. When the position of operation is obvious (such as when one hand holds the fire extinguisher and the other hand holds the nozzle), this information can be omitted. iii. Removal of Restraining or Locking Devices. Many fire extinguishers have an operation safeguard or locking device that prevents accidental actuation. The most common device is a lock pin or ring pin that needs to be withdrawn before operation. iv. Start of Discharge. This requires one or more of several actions such as turning or squeezing a valve handle or lever, pushing a lever, or pumping. v. Agent Application. This act involves direction of the stream of extinguishing agent onto the fire. Nameplate information has advisory notes regarding the application of the agent to different types of fires. vi. Remember the “PASS” word.