

INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, TESTING, AND RECHARGING PERIODS FOR PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

FLS has organized the following information to serve as a timetable for any inspection, maintenance, recharging, and testing of portable fire extinguishers. All of the following information and paragraph numbers can be found in the 2002 edition of the National Fire Protection Association, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, NFPA-10.

| Extinguisher Type | Inspection* | Maintenance ** | Recharging *** | Hydrostatic Testing* |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Dry Chemical (Stored pressure) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | Empty and internally inspect @ 6 Years (6.3.3 & 6.4.3.4) | 12 years (Table 7.2) |
| Carbon Dioxide | 30 Days (6.2.1) | Maintenance and "ensure conductivity exists" @ 1 Year (6.3.1.2, 6.3.1) | 5 Years (6.4.1.1, 6.4.3.9, & 6.4.5.1) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| Water (Stored pressure) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | 1 Year (6.4.2.1 & 6.4.3.10) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| Dry Chemical (Stainless Steel) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | 5 Years (6.4.3.4) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| Dry Chemical (Cartridge) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | Empty and internally inspect @ 6 Years (6.3.3, 6.4.3.4) | 12 years (Table 7.2) |
| Wet Chemical | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | 5 Years (6.4.3.11) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| AFFF (Liquid charge type) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | 3 Years (6.4.2.3) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| FFFP (Liquid charge type) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | 3 Years (6.4.2.3) | 5 years (Table 7.2) |
| Dry Powder | <u>30 Days</u> (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | Empty and internally inspect @ 6 Years (6.3.3, 6.4.3.4) | 12 years (Table 7.2) |
| Halogenated (Halon) | 30 Days (6.2.1) | 1 Year (6.3.1) | Empty and internally inspect @ 6 Years (6.3.3, 6.4.3.4) | 12 years (Table 7.2) |

* The time periods indicated in the above table are to be viewed as the maximum period for each activity.

** For maintenance procedure see NFPA-10 and Annex I of NFPA-10.

*** Recharging is also required to take place after every use and if the need is identified during maintenance or inspection.

Periodic inspection of fire extinguishers shall include a check of at least the following items (NFPA-10-6.2.2):

1. Location in designated place.
2. No obstructions to access or visibility.
3. Operating instructions on nameplate legible and facing outward.