



BEFORE RECHARGING, REPAIRING, CONDUCTING A SIX YEAR MAINTENANCE OR HYDROTESTING AN EXTINGUISHER, ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1 Is the extinguisher a soda-acid, cartridge operated water, 2 part chemical foam, has a brass or copper shell with soft solder or rivets, is a carbon tetrachloride extinguisher, a solid cartridge type AFFF extinguisher or a CO2 with a metal horn?

NO

Continue to question 2

YES

Replace it. (NFPA 10 has required the removal of these extinguishers from service see NFPA 10 1.5.4 – 2002 edition).

2 Does the extinguisher have to be inverted to operate?

NO

Continue to question 3

YES

Replace it. Inverting type extinguishers have not been made since the late 1960's. The operator will probably not know how to use it properly.

3 Is the manufacturer of the extinguisher still in existence?

NO

Replace it (the liability for the extinguisher's performance rests solely on you and your customer. The probability that the extinguisher has been able to maintain its UL Listing – using only OEM parts and agent – is slim to none, therefore, the extinguisher is likely no longer UL Listed).

YES

Continue to question 4

4 Is the extinguisher a stored pressure hand portable dry chemical made before 1984?

NO

Continue to question 5

YES

Replace extinguishers with "old style" operating labels (non graphic), or, any fixed nozzle extinguisher with a gross weight of 12 lbs or more, a 2A or 20 B or higher rating. The newer extinguishers are safer to use and have more user-friendly operating instructions.

5 Does the extinguisher have any dents, gouges or burn marks?

NO

Continue to question 6

YES

Replace it. (NFPA 10, starting with the 1998 edition, has very strict visual inspection requirements regarding dents, gouges and burn marks, if the extinguisher does not pass the visual inspection it is to be removed from service see NFPA 10 7.1.4 2002 edition.)

6 Is the extinguisher listed for a Class K hazard protecting a commercial cooking hazard?

NO

Replace it. (NFPA 10 requires any existing dry chemical extinguisher that does not have a Class K listing, which is protecting Class K hazards is to be replaced when it is due for either a 6 year maintenance or a hydrotest –see NFPA 10 4.3.2.3 – 2002 edition.) No other types are allowed.

YES

Continue to question 7

7 Does the extinguisher require repairs or replacement parts that will exceed 50% of the replacement cost for the unit?

NO

Continue to question 8

YES

Replace it. You will probably serve yourself and your customer better by replacing the unit under these circumstances. You avoid liability exposure for servicing the extinguisher, the customer will have a new unit for a slightly higher cost than the projected cost of service or repair and a new factory warranty will be in place.

8 Will the service fees alone (recharge, six year maintenance or six year maintenance with a hydro test) exceed 50% of the cost to replace the unit?

NO

Continue to question 9

YES

Replace it. In addition to the reasons stated in #7, which benefits the customer, when you consider your costs for labor, making two trips to the customer's facility, leaving a loaner, the tracking and invoicing involved, you may not be making as much money on servicing the extinguisher as you have assumed.

9 Is the extinguisher appropriate for the hazard? (the right size or agent)

NO

Replace it with the appropriate size and type of extinguisher.

YES

Service the Unit

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FIRE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

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