



Bulletin for: Local Authorities, Municipal Fire Inspectors, Property Owners, and Fire Protection Service Providers

NOTICE: Certification of Servicing Agencies and Personnel for Portable Fire Extinguishers

Date Issued: April 17, 2024
OFC 24-003

The Office of the Fire Commissioner has been made aware of instances where servicing/maintenance of portable fire extinguishers is being completed by service agencies that are not CAN/ULC-S532 certified and/or by persons without proper qualifications and certification.

This bulletin is to remind local authorities, municipal fire inspectors, property owners, and servicing agencies that all portable fire extinguisher servicing, repairing, recharging or hydrostatic testing must be done in conformance with the Manitoba Fire Code (MFC) and corresponding reference documents and standards. This means:

- Portable fire extinguishers are serviced and maintained in accordance with NFPA 10.
- Service agencies providing services for a fee or commercial gain, shall be certified in conformance with CAN/ULC-S532 “Standard for the Regulation of the Servicing of Portable Fire Extinguishers” and certified by Transportation of Dangerous Goods Directorate, Transport Canada where high-pressure hydro static testing is carried out.
- Service personnel performing the servicing or testing of portable fire extinguishers shall be trained and certified in accordance with MFC and NFPA 10.

These requirements do not apply to the process of performing monthly inspections (minimum 30-day intervals) of portable fire extinguishers in compliance with NFPA 10, Section 7.2.

Not proceeding in this fashion may result in further engagement by the AHJ where enforcement tools, as provided under The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act, may be exercised. More information on the legislation associated with this bulletin can be found in the attached appendix.

If you have additional questions, please contact:



Office of the Fire Commissioner Fire Inspections Unit

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Legislation:

Manitoba Fire Code

Regulation 82/2023

MFC Article 1.4.1.2. of Division A is amended by adding the following definitions:

Service agency means any person, partnership, corporation, association or other organization that services portable fire extinguishers.

MFC 6.2.1.1 Portable Fire Extinguishers - Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

- 1) Portable extinguishers shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in conformance with NFPA 10, "Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers".

2(11) The following is added after Sentence 6.2.1.1.:

MFC 6.2.1.2. Certification of Servicing Agencies and Personnel

- 1) Service agencies servicing, recharging or carrying out repair or overhaul of portable fire extinguishers for fee or commercial gain must be certified
 - a) in conformance with CAN/ULC-S532, "Standard for the Regulation of the Servicing of Portable Fire Extinguishers" by a testing agency accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, and
 - b) by the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Directorate, Transport Canada, where high pressure hydrostatic testing is carried out.
- 2) Service personnel who perform maintenance, service or testing of portable fire extinguishers shall be trained and certified in accordance with NFPA 10 by
 - a) a service agency or manufacturer of portable fire extinguishers; or
 - b) successfully completing any other training, program or course accepted by the fire commissioner.