



Promoting Quality in Fire Safety

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BAFE position regarding any products falling outside of BAFE SP101 Scope

The topic of innovation with the portable fire extinguisher market has been discussed extensively within BAFE and our position must be one that reflects BSI committee FSH/2, British and EN standards and applicable Law.

BAFE are aware of innovations to the fire extinguisher market that fall outside of the appropriate British Standards, and therefore also fall outside of scope to the BAFE SP101 competency scheme.

A major requirement of the BAFE SP101 competency scheme is that all portable fire extinguishers must comply with the requirements of BS 5306 (particularly BS 5306-3 and BS 5306-8).

Significant points regarding recent innovations that make a portable fire extinguisher fall outside the remit of the BAFE SP101 competency scheme are (but is not exhaustive to):

- If a portable fire extinguisher cannot be serviced in compliance with BS 5306-3.
- If a portable fire extinguisher falls outside the calculation requirements of BS 5306-8.
- If a portable fire extinguisher does not comply with colour coding requirements of BS 5306-8 (and BS 5306-10 – *previously BS 7863*).

BAFE trust the appropriate British Standards (i.e. specific parts of BS 5306) outline correct practice and therefore they underpin the requirements of complying to the BAFE SP101 competency scheme.

The decision to place and use any type of portable fire extinguisher is entirely down to the customer and the customer's Fire Risk Assessment, but if any of the points outlined above (or any other issues falling outside of requirements of the noted British Standards) relate to the product choice it would not be possible for them to be selected, commissioned, installed, and/or maintained etc under the BAFE SP101 competency scheme.

BAFE SP101 Registered Organisations however can supply and provide works to these products but as aforementioned they would fall outside the scope of their BAFE SP101 Registration (which their customers should be made aware of).

BAFE SP101 Registered Organisations will be able to advise further on this matter. All BAFE SP101 Registered Organisations, and their registered fire extinguisher technicians – which can be verified via their BAFE ID card, have been audited and assessed to evidence their competency to work within this field.

We trust all BAFE SP101 Registered Organisations will advise their customers suitably. On further request, they will have the knowledge and expertise to demonstrate where products fall outside of the appropriate British Standards/BAFE SP101 scheme requirements.

BAFE would like to stress that we are not seeking to limit or control innovation in the interest of life safety, but to ensure that safe working practices are able to be employed. With this in mind, we must continue to observe appropriate British Standards and best working practice as outlined in the BAFE SP101 competency scheme.

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BAFE Fire Safety Register