

**EUROFEU**



**Fixed Extinguishing Installations Section**

**GUIDANCE ON THE PERIODIC TESTING OF TRANSPORTABLE GAS CONTAINERS USED  
FOR FIRE FIGHTING**

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### 1. Background

There is currently some confusion on the date at which extinguishing agent containers are required to be submitted for periodic testing under the Pressure Equipment Directive, the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive and The Carriage Regulations as stated in the relevant Standards.

This guidance document gives recommendations on how fire extinguishing system containers should be treated.

### 2. Periodic testing

EN 1968:2002, applicable to seamless steel gas containers, EN 1802:2002, applicable to seamless aluminium alloy gas containers and EN 1803:2002, applicable to welded carbon steel gas containers, all state, in clause 3, that:

- In the case of containers used for emergency purposes (e.g. fire extinguishers, breathing apparatus), it is the responsibility of the person in possession (owner or user) to submit it for periodic inspection within the interval specified in Annex B.
- In Annex B the interval for containers used for CO<sub>2</sub>, Nitrogen and Argon and gas mixtures used as extinguishing agents is 10 years.

Instruction P200 of the ADR also gives the periodic inspection intervals for CO<sub>2</sub>, Nitrogen and Argon containers as 10 years.

Therefore, all fixed extinguishing agent containers for example HFC-227ea , FK 5-1-12, HFC-23, HFC-125, IG 541 (nitrogen, argon CO<sub>2</sub> blend), IG 01 (Argon), IG 55 (nitrogen, argon blend), IG 100 (Nitrogen) and CO<sub>2</sub> must be inspected, re-tested and certified accordingly prior to the 10th anniversary of their manufacture or most recent test.

Note 1: Containers found to be in service beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their manufacture or most recent test should be removed from service. National legislation may allow longer inspection intervals, especially in combination with legal requirements for regular inspections on site by competent persons.

### **3. Reuse of container valves**

For safety reasons container valves should not be reused after removal from containers unless the following conditions are met:

- The valve has been refurbished in accordance with manufacturers recommendations
- The connection thread to the container and discharge hose are inspected to ensure they are within tolerance and undamaged

Note: Where container valves use a taper thread form to marry to the container these are often found to be outside of the tolerances after a single fitment and removal.

### **4. References**

- ADR 2017, UNECE

<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2017/17contentse0.html>