



BSI Standards Publication

Portable aerosol dispensers for fire extinguishing purposes

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 16856:2020.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee FSH/2, Fire extinguishers.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

BSI, as a member of CEN, is obliged to publish EN 16856:2020 as a British Standard. However, attention is drawn to the fact that during the development of this European Standard, the UK committee voted against its approval.

It is the view of the UK committee that some requirements in EN 16856:2020 are not consistent with generally accepted practices in the UK relating to the performance assessment of portable fire extinguishing products, or with the approach taken in the UK regarding the colour coding used to identify such products.

Specifically, the UK committee is concerned that in order to comply with the requirements of this standard, products should be intended to extinguish test fires of at least two types of class rating, either type A + B, type A + F or type A + B + F classes of BS EN 2:1992 (see Clause 1). It is the opinion of the UK committee that this is not consistent with standards such as BS 6165:2019 and the BS EN 3 series, the requirements of which allow for products' minimum fire extinguishing performance to be assessed on test fires of a single type of class rating. With extinguishers tested against this standard required to be small and limited to a maximum total capacity of 1000 ml (see Subclause 5.2.1), it would also have been advantageous to manufacturers for this standard to have allowed for products' performance to be assessed on test fires of a single type of fire class rating, using specialized extinguishing media. By requiring that products extinguish test fires of at least two types of class rating, it is the opinion of the UK committee that this standard unnecessarily limits manufacturers in terms of both product performance and innovation.

Additionally, Clause 9 specifies that the colour coding used on products being assessed against the requirements of this standard should identify the classes of fire on which the extinguisher can be used, and be one of three:

- Silver Grey (type A + B);
- Signal Yellow (type A + F); or
- Oyster White (type A + B + F).

Common practice in the UK is to recognize the colour coding of fire extinguishers in accordance with BS 5306-10:2019, whereby all extinguishers are recommended to be colour coded to designate the specific extinguishing medium contained therein (the colours of which do not match those listed above). The UK committee advises users to note the difference between the requirements of this standard (where colour coding should identify classes of fire) and the recommendations in BS 5306-10:2019 (where colour coding is recommended to designate extinguishing media), to avoid any potential confusion.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.