



Portable Fire Extinguisher Identification

BS EN3 – 5 1996 Portable Fire Extinguishers Specification and Supplementary Test

Section 7 Extinguisher identification

7.1 Colour

Subject to national regulations, the colour of the body shall be red, but in addition to the marking, a zone of colour of area up to 5% of the external area of the body may be used to identify the extinguishing agent in accordance with national specifications.

BS 7863 1996 Recommendations for colour coding to indicate the extinguishing media contained in portable fire extinguishers.

4 Colours for extinguishers

The red colour of the body of the extinguisher should be signal red (BS381C ref 537 or RAL 3000)

The colouring coding used to denote the extinguishing medium should be as given in Table 1.

Extinguishing agent	Colour to indicate extinguishing medium	BS 381C reference	Equivalent RAL Colour
Water	Red	537	RAL 3000
Foam	Pale Cream	352	RAL 1014
Powder	Blue	166	RAL 5002
Carbon dioxide	Black		RAL 9005

This colour coding came into effect on 1 January 1997 and **only** applies to new extinguishers. The previous standards still apply to extinguishers in use prior to 1 January 1997 until such time as they become unserviceable.

It is also **recommended** that new and old extinguishers should **not** be kept together at the same fire point to avoid confusion.