

Refurbished Portable Extinguishers

Issue:

Some fire extinguisher service companies are refurbishing extinguishers without permission from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC). The extinguishers are being sandblasted, repainted and returned to service but do not have a manufacturer's refurbished label with ULC markings. The Alberta Fire Code (AFC) requires that all portable extinguishers sold or distributed be ULC listed and labelled.

The problem with refurbishing extinguishers is in voiding the original ULC listing and having no labels or marking in conformance with ULC standards. ULC have established an extinguisher-rebuilding program and currently certify ANSUL as an OEM and three rebuilding facilities under their program.

Background:

An issue was raised regarding the re-labelling of fire extinguishers once they have been refurbished with a new coat of paint. These extinguishers do not have the original manufacturer's labels or ULC markings. A few extinguisher service companies offer an extinguisher rebuilding service based on applying the manufacturer's specifications under a ULC rebuilding program.

Companies refurbishing extinguishers are working directly through ULC and OEM who will then investigate the service company and monitor the quality control in the same manner as provided to manufacturers. Refurbished extinguishers are expected to meet the appropriate ULC extinguisher standard and the manufacturer's listing specifications.

Companies that refurbish extinguishers under the ULC rebuilding program are then permitted to attach an OEM service label to the extinguisher. A refurbished label must indicate the extinguisher is refurbished. A refurbished extinguisher must also display a ULC marking to be in compliance with the AFC.

To contact ULC and obtain more information regarding the extinguisher rebuilding program please call ULC Toll Free: 1-866-937-3852.

Code Requirements:**2.1.5. Portable Extinguishers****2.1.5.1. Selection and Installation**

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2) Except as otherwise required by this Code, portable extinguishers shall be selected and installed in accordance with NFPA 10, "Portable Fire Extinguishers."

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5) Portable extinguishers shall not be distributed, sold, leased, offered for sale or lease or installed unless the portable extinguisher is listed and labelled.

Interpretation:

Extinguisher service companies in Alberta that undertake refurbishing or rebuilding extinguishers must conform to the ULC extinguisher rebuilding and labelling program.

Extinguishers that are not rebuilt and labelled under the ULC program are not recognized under the AFC as meeting the requirements for listing and labeling or servicing.