

Installation of Extinguishers on Vehicles

Issue:

A number of enquiries have been received regarding the installation of portable fire extinguishers on vehicles such as service pick-ups, delivery vans, construction equipment, etc.

Background:

Except as outlined below the Alberta Fire Code does not regulate the installation of portable fire extinguishers on vehicles. However, there may be regulations that do require a portable fire extinguisher to be installed such as the Alberta Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation. Additionally a number of companies do require that any vehicles entering their facilities are equipped with a portable fire extinguisher and these companies should be consulted as to their requirements. Alberta Municipal Affairs also issues variances for remote/unmanned facilities to ensure portable fire extinguishers are available at these locations from company service vehicles, if required.

NOTE: All portable fire extinguishers are to be listed and labeled in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code.

Code requirements: ¹

3.3. Outdoor Storage

3.3.2. General

3.3.2.10. Portable Extinguishers

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2) Each motorized vehicle operating in an outdoor storage area shall be equipped with at least one portable extinguisher having a minimum rating of 2-A:30-B:C.

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Section 4.11. Tank Vehicles

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4.11.2. General

4.11.2.1. Portable Extinguishers

1) Except as required or permitted by Sentence 4.7.5.1.(1) a *tank vehicle* shall be provided with at least one portable extinguisher having a minimum rating of 40-B:C.

2) Portable extinguishers on a *tank vehicle* shall be readily accessible.

¹ All references are to the Alberta Fire Code, Division B, unless otherwise stated

4.11.3. Loading, Unloading and Dispensing from Tank Vehicles

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4.11.3.8. Dispensing into Vehicles

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2) Dispensing Class II or IIIA liquids into the fuel tank of vehicles directly from a *tank vehicle* having a capacity greater than 3 000 L shall be permitted only if

- a) the vehicles are located outdoors on a property where they are
 - i) not less than 6 m away from any *building*, and
 - ii) not exposed to undue hazard from accident or collision,
- b) at least 2 portable extinguishers having a minimum rating of 80-B:C are provided on the *tank vehicle*,

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Intent:

Although it is suggested that all vehicles are provided with a portable fire extinguisher, there is no legislative requirement for vehicles other than those referenced above to be provided with a portable fire extinguisher.

It should be noted that all fire extinguishers, required or not, shall be inspected, tested and maintained on an annual basis in accordance with NFPA10, "Portable Fire Extinguishers". This is particularly important for vehicle mounted fire extinguishers as some problems, such as powder packing down, is a known cause of fire extinguisher malfunction.