



**BSI Standards Publication**

## **Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises**

Part 10: Colour coding to indicate the extinguishing medium contained in portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice

**Publishing and copyright information**

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# Foreword

## Publishing information

This part of BS 5306 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2019. It was prepared by Technical Committee FSH/2, *Fire extinguishers*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

## Supersession

This part of BS 5306 supersedes BS 7863:2009, which is withdrawn.

## Relationship with other publications

BS 5306 is published in the following parts:

- Part 0: *Guide for selection of installed systems and other fire equipment*;
- Part 1: *Hose reels and foam inlets*;
- Part 2: *Specification for sprinkler systems*<sup>1</sup>;
- Part 3: *Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*;
- Part 4: *Specification for carbon dioxide systems*;
- Part 5: *Halon systems*:
  - Section 5.1: *Specification for Halon 1301 total flooding systems*;
  - Section 5.2: *Halon 1211 total flooding systems*;
- Part 8: *Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*;
- Part 9: *Recharging of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*;
- Part 10: *Colour coding to indicate the extinguishing medium contained in portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*.

The present part of BS 5306 is related to BS EN 3, which allows an area of up to 10% of the surface area of the extinguisher to be colour coded subject to national regulations. It is the purpose of BS 5306-10 to recommend the colours to be used to identify the contents of the extinguishers and define the location of such colours.

BS EN 3 is published in the following parts:

- Part 7: *Characteristics, performance requirements and test methods*;
- Part 8: *Additional requirements to EN 3-7 for the construction, resistance to pressure and mechanical tests for extinguishers with a maximum allowable pressure equal to or lower than 30 bar*;
- Part 9: *Additional requirements to EN 3-7 for pressure resistance of CO<sub>2</sub> extinguishers*;
- Part 10: *Provisions for evaluating the conformity of a portable fire extinguisher to EN 3-7*.

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<sup>1</sup> BS 5306-2 is withdrawn, but is still in use for existing systems.

### Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- change of identifier to bring the standard within the BS 5306 series;
- adding a colour code for Class D powder.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at [bsigroup.com/standards](https://bsigroup.com/standards), or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

### Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 5306 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 5306 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

### Contractual and legal considerations

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

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## 1 Scope

This part of BS 5306 gives recommendations for the colour coding used to identify the extinguishing medium used in portable fire extinguishers, and for the size and location of the colour indication.

*NOTE The requirements of BS EN 3 and the recommendations of this British Standard concerning colour coding apply only to new extinguishers. Extinguishers conforming to withdrawn standard BS 7863 might still be found in service and are still acceptable.*

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document<sup>2</sup>. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

### Standards references

BS 381C:1996, *Specification for colours for identification, coding and special purposes*

BS EN 3-7:2004+A1:2007, *Portable fire extinguishers – Part 7: Characteristics, performance, requirements and test methods*

### Other references

[N1] RAL DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR GÜTESICHERUNG UND KENNZEICHNUNG.

*Farbregister RAL 841-GL*. Sankt Augustin, Germany: RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung.<sup>3</sup>

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 5306, the terms and definitions given in BS EN 3-7 apply.

## 4 Colour coding

All extinguishers should be colour coded on the body/body-cover to designate the extinguishing medium contained therein. The colour coding used to denote the extinguishing medium should be as given in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1** — *Colour coding for extinguishing media*

Extinguishing medium	Colour to indicate extinguishing medium	BS 381C:1996 reference	Equivalent RAL colour reference <sup>A)</sup>
Water	Red	537	RAL 3000
Foam	Pale cream	352	RAL 1014
Powder (all types except Class D)	Blue	166	RAL 5002
Powder (Class D)	Signal violet	— <sup>B)</sup>	RAL 4008
Carbon dioxide	Black	642	RAL 9005
Wet chemical	Canary yellow	309	RAL 1023
Clean agent (including halons)	Green	228	RAL 6016

<sup>A)</sup> RAL colours are specified in Farbregister RAL 841-GL [N1].

<sup>B)</sup> There is no direct BS 381C equivalent.

<sup>2</sup> Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

<sup>3</sup> RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung, Siegberger Straße 39, D-53757 Sankt Augustin, Germany (<http://www.ral.de>).