

Servicing of Handheld Fire Extinguishers and Hose Reels

Legislation requires regular fire extinguisher and hose reel maintenance by a SAQCC certified person. This allows fire equipment to always operate safely and effectively, and is part of the requirements under SANS codes.

Lack of maintenance can lead to an extinguisher not discharging when required, or rupturing when pressurised. Deaths have occurred, even in recent times, when corroded extinguishers have exploded.

Fire extinguishers and hose reels should be maintained in accordance with the SANS codes. All inspection and maintenance of hand-held operating equipment, with the exception of monthly checks, must be carried out by a SAQCC certified person.

The service includes:

- Basic Service: All types of extinguishers and hose reels require a basic inspection annually to check operational condition as required by SANS codes.
- Extended Service: Wet chemical and foam-type fire extinguishers require a 3-yearly service. This requires a more detailed examination including a test discharge of the extinguisher and recharging if satisfactory.
- 5-Yearly Pressure Testing: All fire extinguishers are subject to pressure vessel safety legislation and must be hydrostatically pressure-tested and date-stamped or labelled every 5 years.