

On 1st July 2003 the provision for fire extinguishers to be carried on vehicles regulated by ADR was amended.

The minimum coverage required on vehicles above 7.5 tonnes is now 12kg instead of 6kg. This total however can be inclusive of the 2kg extinguisher in the driver cab.

The amendment currently only applies to new vehicles, those equipped as per the old regulation can continue to be used until 31st December 2007.

Transport Units – (Driver Cab)

The following provisions apply to transport units carrying dangerous goods.

Every transport unit shall be equipped with at least one portable fire extinguisher for the inflammability classes A, B & C with a minimum capacity of 2kg, suitable for fighting a fire in the engine or cab of the transport unit.

So, a 2kg Dry Powder unit must be installed in the driver cab of the transport unit, irrespective of the vehicle mass.

Supplementary Equipment - Trailer Units

For transport with a maximum permissible mass of more than 7.5 tonnes, one or more portable fire extinguishers for the inflammability classes A, B, & C with a minimum total capacity of 12kg, of which one shall have a minimum capacity of 6kg.

So, a vehicle with a maximum permissible mass of more than 7.5 tonnes must be equipped as follows:

Transport Unit

1 x 2kg ABC Dry Powder unit

Trailer Unit

2 x 6kg ABC Dry Powder units

Note. If the regulations are interpreted exactly, the trailer unit may be fitted with one 4kg unit & one 6kg unit. These together with the unit in the transport unit would provide the aggregate capacity of 2kg.

It is more practical however to provide two units of equal physical size.

For transport with a maximum permissible mass of more than 3 tonnes & up to & including 7.5 tonnes, one or more portable fire extinguishers for the inflammability classes A, B, & C with a minimum total capacity of 8kg, of which one shall have a minimum capacity of 6kg.

So, a vehicle with a maximum permissible mass of more than 3 tonnes & up to & including 7.5 tonnes must be equipped as follows:

Transport Unit

1 x 2kg ABC Dry Powder unit

Trailer Unit

1 x 6kg ABC Dry Powder unit

For transport with a maximum permissible mass up to 3 tonnes, one or more portable fire extinguishers for the inflammability classes A, B, & C with a minimum total capacity of 4kg.

So, a vehicle with a maximum permissible mass up to 3 tonnes must be equipped as follows:

Transport Unit

1 x 2kg ABC Dry Powder unit

Trailer Unit

1 x 2kg ABC Dry Powder unit

Note. The capacity of the extinguisher in the transport unit is inclusive in the total capacity required for the vehicle.

The portable fire extinguishers shall be fitted with a seal verifying that they have not been used. In addition, they shall bear a mark of compliance with a standard recognised by a competent authority & an inscription indicating the date (month & year) of the next recurrent inspection or the maximum permissible period of use.

The fire extinguishers shall be subjected to periodic inspections in accordance with authorised national standards in order to guarantee their functional safety.

The fire extinguishers shall be installed on the transport units in a way that they are easily accessible by the vehicle crew. They shall be protected against the effects of the weather so that their operational safety is not effected.