

* Installation and commissioning maybe an optional choice on the internet suppliers webpage but the procedure is NOT optional. The manufacturers instructions will state that the unit MUST be installed and commissioned as per BS5306 parts 8 and 3. As stated above, how will you stand with your insurance company if you have not followed the manufacturers' instructions and you find yourself in the position of having to make a claim?

To comply with manufacturers instructions, the relevant standards and more importantly the over-riding legislation of the FSO, your extinguishers will need to be serviced after twelve months. Who are you going to call?

Having bought new extinguishers you may have old units to be removed from your site. They will need to be disposed of safely and legally. Unless the company taking them away is a registered waste carrier and use a registered waste disposal contractor to ensure they are disposed of in accordance with regulations you will both be in breach of the law and liable to prosecution under the environmental Protection Regulations 1991 or the Groundwater Regulations 1998. n.b. a registered waste carrier will be able (and is obliged) to give you a waste transfer note when they remove the units from your premises. Simply stating they are registered is not enough.

This pamphlet has been produced by the Independent Fire Engineering & Distributors Association (IFEDA).

IFEDA's members have either obtained 3rd party accreditation or are working towards it as a condition of continued membership and the IFEDA objective of promoting quality, professionalism and excellence across the fire protection industry.



An ISO 9001 : 2008 Accredited organisation No. 441430

Unit 903, Solent Business Centre
Millbrook road West
Millbrook
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 0HW

Telno: 02380 513326
Email: info@ifeda.org
Web: www.ifeda.org

BUYING FROM THE INTERNET?

Are you responsible for sourcing your company's fire extinguishers? Are you possibly tempted by Internet prices? However, have you considered all the implications? Will it really be cheaper or is there potential for a business/insurance catastrophe?

Please read on for a typical website scenario

6 litre Foam— In stock our price **£23.50** inc vat

Buy now

Features

- Class 13A, 144B rating
- Stored pressure extinguisher
- BS EN 3: 1996 Kitemarked
- We also offer optional* fire extinguisher commissioning and installation available from £4.25 per extinguisher
- CE approval
- Weight (full): 9.4kg
- Dimensions (HxWxDI): 585x190x188mm
- Working pressure: 10 BAR
- 5 Year Warranty



Suitable Usage:

- **Class A:** Wood, paper, straw, textiles, coal
- **Class B:** Flammable Liquids

BUY NOW Optional—commissioning service **£4.25 + vat**
BUY NOW Optional—Installation + commissioning **£9.70 + vat**

Please note if installation and/or commissioning is chosen a one off charge of £28 inc vat will be added at the checkout

At this stage the above no doubt looks competitive and much more appealing than using an IFEDA service provider. BUT, what is the REAL cost?.....

Add— Delivery Charges

You pay only £14.00 + vat delivery charges irrespective of how many items ordered. Please note large orders may be delivered on a pallet. Orders free over £300. Next day delivery available.

Add— Installation, Commissioning and Certification

We have access to a nationwide network of approved service technicians. Buy from us and experience the peace of mind in knowing that we take care of everything to include delivery, installation, commissioning, labelling and certification as per BS5306 parts 3 and 8. Installation and commissioning is carried out within 14 days of the order delivery.

One off (call-out) charge £28.00

Fire extinguisher installation and commissioning per unit etc £ 9.70

Therefore the real COST of the one extinguisher:-

1 x 9 litre foam £23.50

Installation, commissioning etc £ 9.70

Delivery charge (inc vat) £16.80

One off call-out charge £28.00

NEW COST £78.00

However, consider also the following and then ask how does the internet supplier compare to the IFEDA member who gave you this leaflet:-

Does the supplier have efficacy insurance i.e. this covers the product failing to perform **Unknown cost**

Does the supplier have liability insurance i.e. who do you claim from if it all goes wrong? **Unknown cost**

Is the installation etc done by sub-contractors? **Unknown cost**

If yes, and it will be in over 90% of these contracts

Have you seen the sub-contractors insurances? **Unknown cost**

Is the installation company ISO registered? **Unknown cost**

Is the installation company BAFE approved? **Unknown cost**

How are you going to prove competence of the supplier? **Unknown cost**

And the competence of the sub-contractor? **Unknown cost**

Have you considered the H&S implications e.g. do they have A H&S policy to adhere to with method statements? **Unknown cost**

And finally. Who will take your old fire extinguishers away? Technically they are waste and you are liable for their safe and legal disposal. Is the company you are using certified to transfer waste?

Get this wrong and you could face fines of circa £1000 per extinguisher.

So what is the true cost of the internet purchase?

Fire extinguishers are similar to insurance policies hopefully we will never need them but the true cost can only be evaluated when the equipment is required in an emergency. Are you really sure that when there is a fire the item purchased from the internet will operate as a life-saving piece of equipment should?

Fire Authorities will investigate fires and will prosecute for breaches of the Fire Safety Order 2005 (FSO). Proof of competency for the supplier and installer of the fire extinguishers will need to be shown as part of the investigation.

Insurance companies investigate all claims and will also want to see proof of competency. If you cannot prove that you have complied with the FSO which requires you, as the Responsible Person, to ensure competence of service and product providers you may have difficulty in receiving a full insurance payout: what will that mean for your business? **Remember, over 60% of all businesses never recover from a serious fire.**

Should you have a small fire and attempt to extinguish it using a portable fire extinguisher which fails to work, who will you make a claim against for the failure, especially if the small fire becomes a very large fire whilst waiting the arrival of the Fire & Rescue services. **From the IFEDA surveys of 2002 and 2008 over 83% of fires are extinguished using just a portable fire extinguisher.**

When you buy from a proven source that is Third Party Accredited and BAFE Approved, having appropriate liability and efficacy insurances, employed, trained and qualified staff with appropriate competencies, on-going training and regularly audited for quality of service delivery, this is the only way to ensure you will be purchasing a quality product, delivered, installed and commissioned by a competent technician. This ensures compliance for provision of portable fire fighting equipment under the requirements of the FSO 2005 i.e. *Third-party certification schemes for fire protection products and related services are an effective means of providing the fullest possible assurances, offering a level of quality, reliability and safety that non-certificated products may lack. This does not mean goods and services that are not third-party approved are less reliable, but there is no obvious way this can be demonstrated.*