



5 LB. CO2 HORN AND ELBOW EXAMINATION DURING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

NFPA 10 – 2013 Edition states under Section 7.3 Extinguisher Maintenance:

“7.3.1* Maintenance Procedures. Where required by another section of this standard, maintenance procedures shall include the procedures detailed in the manufacturer’s service manual and a thorough examination of the basic elements of the fire extinguisher, including the following:

- 1) Mechanical parts
- 2) Extinguishing agent
- 3) Expelling means
- 4) Physical condition”

While CO2 extinguishers do not require an internal examination, and the agent itself is also the expelling means, all mechanical parts must be checked.

Most 5 lb. CO2 extinguishers have a horn attached to a discharge tube which is attached to an elbow that swivels. The horn must be from the original manufacturer, or the extinguisher may fail to discharge properly. The elbow must swivel correctly in order to use the extinguisher safely and effectively.

Amerex horns must be used on Amerex extinguishers. Using parts from manufacturers other than Amerex may cause the extinguisher to function improperly, or not at all, in addition to voiding the UL listing and the Amerex warranty.

While performing maintenance on a 5 lb. CO2 with a swiveling elbow and discharge tube, it is necessary to confirm that the elbow swivels properly and does not bind. For a more definitive list of what must be checked during annual maintenance, refer to A.7.3.1 in NFPA 10.