



U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

In 1982 the Department of Transportation—United States Coast Guard declared itself out of the fire extinguisher testing and approval business. Quite simply it stated that UL, in their listing and rating process, had been subjecting extinguishers to testing sufficient to qualify them for “Marine” approval. Since that time others have been recognized by the Coast Guard as “independent laboratories” for testing and listing portable fire extinguishers. No matter which laboratory is involved, identification is simplified because all “marine type” extinguishers must have the Coast Guard classification system marking and approval number on the nameplate (label) [i.e. “Marine Type USCG Type ----, Size----, Approval No. 162.028/----”]. Minimums of a 5 B:C UL rating and 2 lbs. of dry chemical, 2 1/2 lbs. or 5 lbs of CO2 are necessary to meet the requirements for a Coast Guard B classification. All extinguishers must be “restrained” in mounting brackets of the marine or motor vehicle type which have been subjected to the same rigid salt spray and vibration tests as the extinguishers (wall type brackets are not acceptable). **UL requires that the model or part number of the bracket in which the extinguisher was tested for its marine listing be noted on the extinguisher nameplate (label).** In addition to the nameplate notation, Amerex cross references extinguishers with marine brackets in our “Hand Portable” extinguisher catalog and on our single page extinguisher specification sheet. Coast Guard regulations do not allow the use of hand portable stainless steel fire extinguishers, therefore Stored Pressure Water extinguishers are not approved and only the Class K extinguishers labeled Coast Guard approved are approved.

The following chart relates Coast Guard classifications to types and sizes of extinguishers:

Coast Guard Classification		Dry Chemical (Pounds)	Carbon Dioxide (Pounds)
Type	Size		
A	II	5	
B:C	I	2	5
B:C	II	10	15
B:C	III	20	35
B:C	IV	30	50
B:C	V	50	100

EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION:

All “Motor Boats” (vessels less than 65 ft. in length propelled by machinery) shall carry the quantity of Type B:C, Size I extinguishers noted in the table below. Note that the quantity changes when there is a fixed fire extinguishing system installed in the machinery (engine) space.

Class of Motor Boat	Length (Feet)	Minimum number of Type B, Size I Extinguishers Required:	
		Without Fixed System	With Fixed Systems
A	Under 16	15	10
1	16 and over, but under 26	35	
2	26 and over, but under 40	50	
3	40 and over, but not over 65	100	

Note: One B-II extinguisher may be substituted for two B-I extinguishers.

Type A, Size II extinguishers will be specified on “Motor Vessels” (Any vessel more than 65 ft. in length not propelled by steam). They are required only for accommodation and service areas on inspected vessels carrying fare paying passengers.

Type B:C, Size III and Type B:C, Size V extinguishers will be specified for certain areas of “Motor Vessels”. These areas include oil fired boilers, internal combustion or gas turbine propelling machinery and fuel storage spaces (high Class B & C hazards).