Third edition
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Fire protection equipment — Carbon dioxide extinguishing systems for use on premises — Design and installation

Équipement de protection contre l'incendie — Installations fixes d'extinction par dioxyde de carbone utilisées dans les bâtiments — Conception et installation

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 21, *Equipment for fire protection and firefighting*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Gaseous media and firefighting systems using gas*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 6183:2009), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment(s) ISO 6183:2009/Amd. 1:2017 and ISO 6183:2009/Amd. 2:2019.

The main changes are as follows:

— guidance on container storage has been updated;

— alerts when removing actuators have been added;

— a commissioning check list has been included in Annex A;

— pictorial examples have been added to Annex C.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document is intended for use by those concerned with purchasing, designing, installing, testing, inspecting, approving, operating and maintaining carbon dioxide (CO_2) extinguishing systems.

This document applies only to carbon dioxide fixed fire-extinguishing systems in buildings and other premises on land. Although the general principles can apply to other uses (e.g. maritime use), for these other uses, it is likely that additional considerations will have to be taken into account and the application of the requirements given in this document is therefore unlikely to be fully satisfactory. General information about carbon dioxide as an extinguishing medium is given in Annex D. This can be useful background information for those unfamiliar with the characteristics of this medium.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this document that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to those persons appropriately qualified and experienced in the specification, design, installation, testing, approval, inspection, operation and maintenance of systems and equipment, for whose guidance it has been prepared, and who can be expected to exercise a duty of care to avoid the unnecessary release of carbon dioxide. New requirements to minimize the need to release carbon dioxide during testing and commissioning procedures are included in this third edition. These are linked to the inclusion of enclosure integrity testing.

Carbon dioxide has for many years been a recognized effective medium for the extinction of flammable liquid fires as well as fires in the presence of electrical and ordinary Class A hazards. Nevertheless, in the planning of comprehensive schemes, it should be remembered that there can be hazards for which this media is not suitable, and that in certain circumstances or situations there can be dangers in its use requiring special precautions.

The use of carbon dioxide is no longer recommended for total flooding of occupied areas if more appropriate extinguishing agents are available. ISO 14520 provides requirements for other extinguishing agents that can be more appropriately used in these areas.

It is important that the fire protection of a building or plant be considered as a whole. Carbon dioxide systems form only a part, albeit an important part, of the available facilities. It cannot be assumed that their adoption necessarily removes the need to consider supplementary measures, such as the provision of portable fire extinguishers or other mobile appliances for first aid or emergency use, or to deal with special hazards.

Advice on these matters can be obtained from the appropriate manufacturer of the carbon dioxide or the extinguishing system. Information can also be sought from the appropriate fire authority, the health and safety authorities, and insurers. In addition, reference needs to be made, as appropriate, to the other national standards and statutory regulations of a given country.

It is essential that firefighting equipment be carefully maintained to ensure instant readiness when required. Routine maintenance is liable to be overlooked or given insufficient attention by the owner of the system. It is, however, neglected at the peril of the lives of occupants of the premises and at the risk of crippling financial loss. The importance of maintenance cannot be too highly emphasized. Inspection, preferably by a third party, should include an evaluation concluding that the extinguishing system continues to provide adequate protection for the risk (protected zones as well as state-of-the-art can change over time).