

ClassNK PSC Bulletin

Date:	19 May 2020
No:	NK-PSC-20
Attachment	No / Yes : page(s)

Title:

Validity date of spare charges of powder fire extinguishers

Typical deficiency (outline of comment) by PSC:

The spare charge of powder fire extinguisher was expired

Port State	Country: U.S.A.	Port: All ports in U.S.A.
------------	-----------------	---------------------------

Action taken by PSC: Detention / Rectify before Departure / Other

Description:

USCG officers have pointed out that spare charges of powder fire extinguishers were expired. Further, it has been also reported that the manufacture or product of spare powder differed from those of actual fire extinguishers onboard.

According to SOLAS II-2/14.2.2.3, portable fire extinguishers are to be maintained properly, including the spare charges. Whenever a defective condition such as the above is found, it will likely be pointed out as a deficiency. Further, there is a possibility that the deficiency might be judged as grounds for detention indicating a lack of proper SMS implementation.

Although there is no clear requirement concerning the validity date of powder in the FSS Code, it is generally considered necessary to refill the powder every 5 or 6 years, in principle. It is highly recommended that spare charges should also be replaced at the same time taking into account age deterioration, even though the expiration date of the charges is not specified by the manufacturer.

In light of the above situation, kindly please consider replacing the spare charges of powder fire extinguishers at the same intervals as the refilling intervals specified by the manufacturer, in addition to performing regular maintenance inspections of all spare charges.

Maintenance Intervals

TYPE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER	BASIC SERVICE	EXTENDED SERVICE AND RECHARGING
Powder	Every year	Every 5 years

- Basic service: date of commissioning or the date of last service.
- Extended service:
Powder: 5 years from the date of commissioning or 6 years from the date of manufacture
Subsequently every 5 years from the date of last extended service;
- The replacement of parts does not affect these intervals.

Sample of Manufacturer's instruction



Spare Powder