



A UTC Fire & Security Company

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

# 118 -0807

**Date: August 14, 2007**

**Subject: Portable Extinguisher ANSI/UL-711 Test Standard Harmonization Changes**

Back in 2002, attempts to standardize the various hand portable fire extinguisher test protocol differences between Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) were initiated. The proposed implementation date of the new harmonized portable extinguisher equipment design and test standards is August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. After this date all fire equipment manufacturers are required to comply with the new harmonized testing standards in order to obtain new product listing approvals.

One of the most notable portable fire extinguisher changes resulting from the harmonization is how the Class A fire test procedures are conducted within the ANSI/UL-711 standard. While the new procedure changes primarily affect fire equipment manufacturers, they will result in some noticeable changes to the numerical Class A fire ratings typically associated with certain sizes of new fire extinguishers. In the future this may raise questions and require some explanation with customers.

Because the new harmonized numerical Class A fire test procedures require slightly larger configurations of crib fires and establish longer pre-burn requirements before attempting extinguishment, some larger models of multi-purpose dry chemical equipment may experience significantly reduced numerical fire ratings. While the deadline for Class A rated fire extinguishers has been extended to February of 2009, various numerical fire rating reductions are expected to occur.

Some anticipated industry examples of Class A fire rating changes include:

- 10 pound extinguisher models changing from 10A to 4A ratings
- 20 pound extinguisher models changing from 20A to 6A ratings
- 30 pound extinguisher models changing from 20A to 10A ratings
- 50 pound extinguisher models changing from 30A to 20A ratings
- 150 pound extinguisher models changing from 40A to 30A ratings

While the Portable Fire Extinguisher Standard (NFPA-10) does not specify Class A numerical fire ratings higher than 4A, there are a few other NFPA standards which reference and require higher numerical Class A fire ratings. Where these types of higher rating recommendations exist, larger extinguisher models may become necessary for compliance.

It is important to point out that in most cases the equipment has not changed, only the fire test method for rating them. Most of those fire extinguisher models typically still deliver the same level of performance that they did prior to the implementation of the new harmonized fire test standard requirements.

Should you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact Badger technical support at 800-446-3857 or visit our web site [www.badgerfire.com](http://www.badgerfire.com).