

Guideline**5/4****CLAP****FORM N°199****Version : 2****Directive 97/23/EC****Keywords :**

Extinguisher

Protective device

Safety accessory

Assembly

Risk analysis

Safety device

Directive references:

Article 10 § 2 c) - 97/23 EC

Annex I § 1.3 - 97/23 EC

Annex I § 2.8, 2.9, 2.10 -
97/23 ECAnnex I § 2.11, 2.12, 2.13 -
97/23 EC**Adopted by WPG:** 24/05/2002**Adopted by CLAP:** 24/05/2002**Subject:** ESR on design – Protective devices of portable extinguishers**Question:** Shall portable extinguishers be equipped with protective devices against over-pressure?**Answer:** The prevention of danger due to over-pressurization of fire extinguishers shall be achieved for all foreseeable circumstances either by eliminating the hazard by the design, or by providing a protective device.

The risk of external fire shall be adequately considered according to the type of fire extinguisher.

Due to the fact that portable extinguishers are very wide-spread and are also consumer products, their possible misuse (over-filling, use of incorrect cartridge ...) must be carefully assessed. Written instructions alone cannot be regarded as sufficient.

Examples:

In general the risk of over-filling is significant for cartridge type fire extinguishers, which are manually (re-)filled.

External fire will cause high risks for CO₂ fire extinguishers (cylinders).

In such cases protective devices or similar methods shall be taken to meet damage limitation requirements.

Modifications compared to the previous adopted version: Editorial correction on 2004-09-16.