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**FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION COMMAND**

5/F, Fire Services Headquarters Building  
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31 March 2021

To: Class 3 Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Inspection and Maintenance of**  
**Portable Fire Extinguishers**

This letter serves to remind all Class 3 Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSICs) on the points to note for the inspection of portable fire extinguishers.

Pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap. 95B, Laws of Hong Kong, all portable equipment, including portable fire extinguishers, shall be approved by the Director of Fire Services before they are allowed to be supplied or sold in Hong Kong.

Portable fire extinguishers provided in buildings/premises could be operated by building occupants in the early stage of fire under a safe condition for fire extinguishment. An approved fire extinguisher shall be fitted with a safety device which could be in the form of a locking pin together with a tamper indicator or a seal such that it breaks with the removal of the locking pin when operating a fire extinguisher. The purpose of the locking device is to reduce the risk of unintentional discharge and the tamper indicator is to indicate whether the extinguisher may have been tampered.

However, it has come to our attention in a recent fire incident that, a tamper seal securing the safety pin of a fire extinguisher could not be readily removed during operation. Therefore, RFSICs are reminded that during the maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, they should be responsible for ascertaining the efficient operation of the fire extinguishers.

They should particularly note that if the safety device is found broken or missing, the fire extinguisher should be inspected in detail for any need of recharge or replacement as appropriate. At the end of the inspection or maintenance, RFSICs should also ascertain that the fire extinguisher is fitted with the safety device in accordance with corresponding standard.

The above points to note about the inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers are by no means exhaustive, RFSICs are ultimately responsible for assisting FSI owners in ensuring that the fire extinguishers are in efficient working order and in compliance with the requirement specified in the Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment as well as the standard(s) applicable to the approved portable equipment.

For enquiries, please contact our Fire Service Installations Task Force at 2733 1567 during office hours.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leung Kwun-hong', written in a cursive style.

(LEUNG Kwun-hong)

for Director of Fire Services

c.c. Recipients of FSD Circular Letters