

ANNEX

IMPROVED GUIDELINES FOR MARINE PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**1 Scope**

These Guidelines have been developed to supplement the relevant requirements for marine portable fire extinguishers* of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 74, as amended, the International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code) and the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977. The Guidelines are offered to Administrations to assist them in determining appropriate design and construction parameters. The status of the Guidelines is advisory. Their content is based on current practices and does not exclude the use of designs and materials other than those indicated below.

2 Definitions

2.1 An *extinguisher* is an appliance containing an extinguishing medium, which can be expelled by the action of internal pressure and be directed into a fire. This pressure may be stored pressure or be obtained by release of gas from a cartridge.

2.2 A *portable extinguisher* is one, which is designed to be carried and operated by hand, and which in working order has a total weight of not more than 23 kg.

2.3 *Extinguishing medium* is the substance contained in the extinguisher which is discharged to cause extinction of fire.

2.4 *Charge of an extinguisher* is the mass or volume of the extinguishing medium contained in the extinguisher. The quantity of the charge of water or foam extinguishers is normally expressed in volume (litres) and that of other types of extinguishers in mass (kilograms).

3 Classification

3.1 Extinguishers are classified according to the type of extinguishing medium they contain. At present the types of extinguishers and the uses for which they are recommended are as follows:

| Extinguishing medium | Recommended for use on fires involving |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water Water with additives | wood, paper, textiles and similar materials |
| Foam | wood, paper, textiles and flammable liquids |
| Dry powder/dry chemical (standard/ classes B, C) | flammable liquids, electrical equipment and flammable gases |
| Dry powder/dry chemical (multiple or general purpose/classes A, B, C) | wood, paper, textiles, flammable liquids, electrical equipment and flammable gases |
| Dry powder/dry chemical (metal) | combustible metals |
| Carbon dioxide | flammable liquids and electrical equipment |
| Wet chemical for class F or K | cooking grease, fats or oil fires |
| Clean agents** | |

* Wherever in the text of these Guidelines the word "*portable extinguisher*" appears it *should* be taken as meaning "marine portable fire extinguisher".

** Refer to the recommendations by the International Organization for Standardization, in particular Publication ISO 7165:1999, *Fire-fighting – Portable fire extinguishers – Performance and construction*.