

SANS 1475**INFORMATION BULLETIN****GENERAL INFORMATION**

The servicing of a fire extinguisher has been regulated by the Department of Labour (DOL) under the OHAS Act (Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993) as it has been recognised that this is a safety critical product that in an emergency can save both lives and property

Unfortunately some service companies have not kept the above in mind and have allowed unscrupulous and unethical practices to creep in, in order to counter these practices and prevent them from continuing the SABS has resolved the following:

- Servicing shall in all instances be carried out in accordance with SANS 1475 and the requirements of the Mark Permit Conditions. The servicing of an extinguisher may only be carried out by a currently registered SAQCC Fire, or under his personal supervision
- A SABS permit cannot be used for more than one workshop or branch. Each workshop or branch of the company must have their own permit.
- A registered fire companies' service vehicle must leave and return to the workshop every day. Only approved and registered mobile workshops may service away from the workshop for periods of a week, but the base of operation still remains the registered workshop.
- Each service vehicle and mobile workshop must at all times have at least one SAQCC Fire registered serviceman.
- SAQCC Fire registered serviceman must carry their SAQCC registration card on them at all times.
- Should a service company no longer have a registered technician in their employment all service work shall cease, the SABS shall immediately be notified and this will result in the Mark permit being suspended. Should this not be resolved within 3 months the company's SABS Mark permit shall be cancelled.
- If a service company only have one SAQCC Fire registered serviceman, all service work shall be ceased if the serviceman is off duty (Sick or on leave etc.).
- Should the SABS Auditor identify that no SAQCC Fire serviceman is employed at a fire company and the SABS has not been notified of this by the company, this company's SABS 1475 Mark Permit shall be cancelled.
- In all cases of suspension or cancellation of the SABS 1475 Mark permit the DOL, the local Fire Chief and SAQCC Fire shall be notified. During any suspension period a servicing company may not use, or claim compliance to, the SABS Mark.
- Any company found servicing from an unapproved service vehicle or with unqualified and unsupervised technicians shall have their permit cancelled. This does not imply a witch hunt and only when the SABS themselves have confirmed the issue will action be taken.
- SANS 1475 Mark holder companies must comply with all the requirements of SANS 1475 and the Mark Permit Conditions. Services rendered to customers must be in complete compliance with the requirements of SANS 1475 as a whole. Failure to comply with service requirements will indicate poor quality of service and can result in the permit being suspended or cancelled.
- SANS 1475 mark holder companies may NOT service fire extinguishers that does not bears the mark of a certification body in compliance with SANS 1910 manufacturing requirements. These extinguishers must be condemned and replaced with approved fire extinguishers.
- In addition to the normal SABS inspection, the SABS Auditors may choose to visit a service company's clients and verify the quality of the service conducted.
- Servicing companies may NOT cut off the manufacturers name and place their own name on the extinguisher; this is illegal as it implies that the service company manufactured the extinguisher to SANS 1910. Please note that SANS 1475 requires a fire extinguisher always to be returned to its original state.

It is the responsibility of the end user (owner) to ensure that he uses a service provider that is an approved SANS 1475 mark holder to recondition his fire extinguishers.

The illegal servicing companies have long been a problem. As they do not have the SABS Mark, the action SABS can take against them is limited. We therefore urge all mark holders to also report the illegal organizations to the DOL as well as the local Fire Chief; it is only through our combined efforts that this problem can be eliminated.