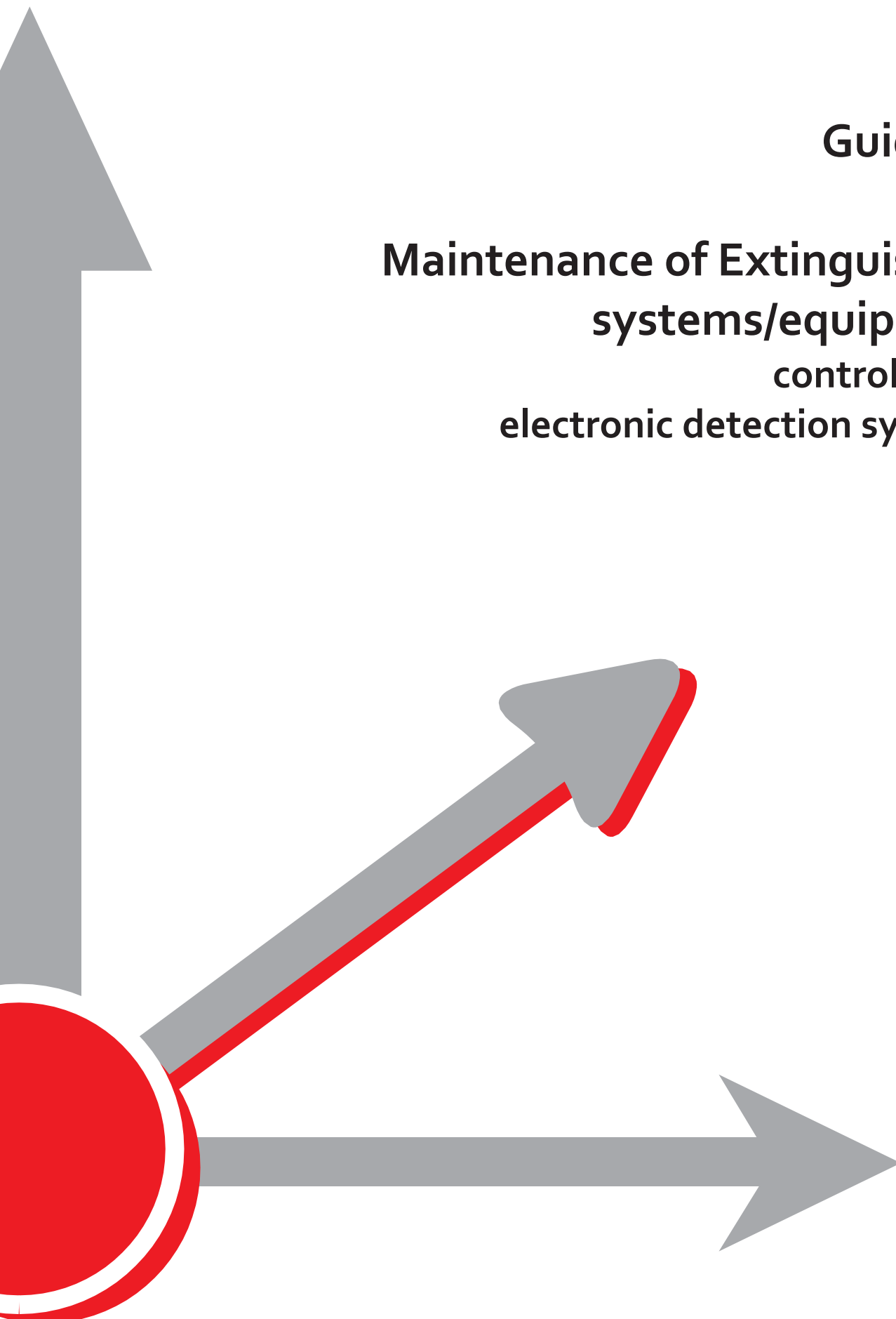


**Guidance**

**Maintenance of Extinguishing  
systems/equipment  
controlled by  
electronic detection systems**



## Revision table

Date	Rev #	Paragraph/ Page	Change
08.11.2021	V1.0	Document	Final version for publication and translation (min. EN, FR, DE, ES)

## FOREWORD

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*Note: The English version of this document is the approved Euralarm reference document.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is to make all users having an extinguishing system in their premises or users planning to install one, aware of the importance of maintenance and continuous preventative measures for the constant performance and availability of the systems in case of fires. The correct performance of extinguishing systems is essential to quickly extinguish a fire and protect human life.

This document **specifically covers gaseous fire extinguishing systems**, but the content may also be applicable to other fire extinguishing or fire prevention systems.

## 2 WHAT IS AN AUTOMATIC GASEOUS FIRE EXTINGUISHING INSTALLATION FOR?

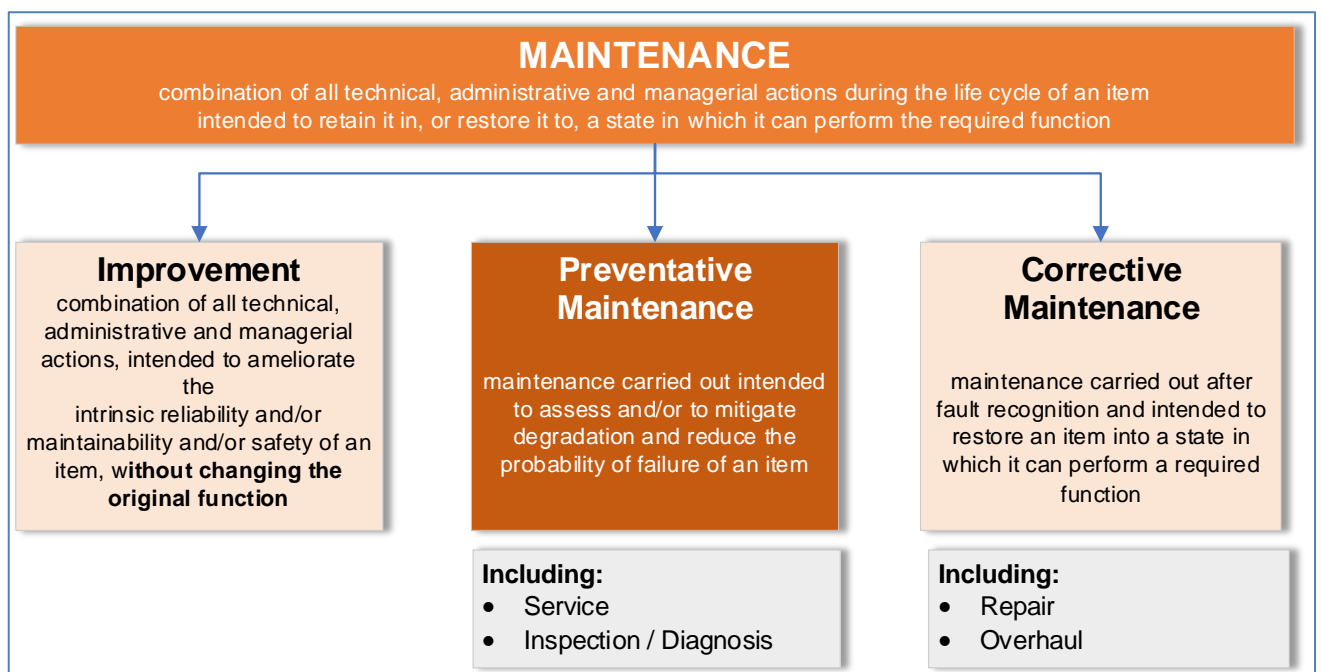
Any automatic gaseous fire extinguishing installation has the role of extinguishing a fire at an early stage in its development to safeguard, property, people and business continuity. Systems are controlled by means of an automatic fire detection system designed to detect a fire early and release the gas before the fire can get out of control.

Gaseous fire extinguishing systems are a very effective way to protect critical hazards and high value assets, when it is important to have no collateral damage caused by the extinguishant or residues. For any kind of electric risk (Data Centres, IT rooms, Control rooms, Switchgear rooms, etc.) or very sensitive/valuable assets or materials (Art, Antiques, Rare books, etc.), they are often the first choice. An additional factor is personal safety as many of these applications are occupied, either permanently or occasionally.

All clean extinguishing agents used are electrically non-conductive and leave no residue.

## 3 WHAT IS MAINTENANCE?

According to the only European standard describing terminology of the term maintenance (EN 13306:2018), **MAINTENANCE** is defined as follows (figure 1):



*Figure 1: Maintenance terminology according to EN 13306:2018*

It is important to conceptually separate maintenance into “**preventative**” and “**corrective**” measures. The term “**preventative maintenance**” includes all measures that are taken preventively and before a malfunction / error becomes visible in order to avoid unwanted system malfunctions or failures. This is what this document is concentrating on.

## 4 WHY MAINTAIN AN EXTINGUISHING INSTALLATION?

Unlike a production tool, a fire protection system is on operational standby and is only activated in the event of a fire. Some faults may appear without being detectable by a non-specialist operator. **This is why it is necessary to carry out regular maintenance visits by specialists to confirm the level of performance of the installation by functional tests.**

Beyond technical verification of the correct functioning of the system, maintenance must also include:

- Preventative replacement of critical components that may degrade over time.
- Adapting the extinguishing installation to changes in risks and protected premises
- Keep the extinguishing installation in conformity with the rules/standards/regulations in force
- Check the tightness of the protected enclosure to ensure it is capable of retaining the extinguishing agent for a specified period of time, normally at least 10 minutes

It is the responsibility of the user/owner to ensure the safety of his staff, but also of his equipment for the sustainability of his business. However, visual inspection and maintenance by users isn't sufficient – there must be inspection and maintenance by professional contractors (see [chapter 5](#)), because, by entrusting this service to a specialist, users/owners are ensuring the correct level of competence is applied to the system, while remaining focused on their business.

## 5 WHO SHOULD MAINTAIN AN EXTINGUISHING INSTALLATION?

In the planning, design, installation, commissioning, inspection, system verification and handover of a fire extinguishing systems, a third-party-approved installer company will ensure that the relevant guidelines for planning and installation as well as national and international regulations and standards are adhered to. Conformity with these standards is confirmed by means of an installation certificate. Approved installer companies also offer regular maintenance of fire extinguishing systems according to applicable regulation and standards.

### What are the responsibilities of an owner/user of such system?

The user/owner is responsible for a general awareness of issues in the premises that may affect the correct operation of the extinguishing system. He/she is responsible for carrying out the following functions (some or all of the following functions may be delegated by contract to a third party (*such as a specialist installation or servicing company*)):

- Laying down procedures for dealing with alarms, warnings and other events originating from the system;
- Training of people who are authorized to operate the system;
- Taking adequate measures to prevent inadvertent activation of the system by cutting, welding, sawing, smoking, heating, cooking, exhaust fumes, etc.;
- Ensuring that the system is suitably modified if any significant changes of use or configuration of the building occur. Inform the maintenance contractor about all changes in the protected premises and in case a new risk assessment is needed;
- Keeping a logbook, and recording all events affecting the system;
- Ensuring that maintenance is carried out at the appropriate intervals;
- Ensuring that the system is properly serviced after the occurrence of a fault, fire, or other event which might adversely affect the system.
- To have a valid and current contract with a company fulfilling all criteria for maintenance companies (see next paragraph)

In addition, the user should perform regular visual controls of the system, described in [chapter 6](#).

### What are the criteria for selecting a maintenance company?

- It has the necessary certifications / qualifications and authorizations. This may include the need for specific training by manufacturers.
- It has sufficient personnel to fulfil its obligations.
- The company and the personnel have the skills to maintain the equipment.
- It has access to the spare parts and special tools necessary for the maintenance of the equipment.

- It has appropriate levels of insurance covering the work / services to be carried out.

### Why should a contracted maintenance company be certified?

Holders of such certifications are perfectly able to perform all services mentioned before and it can generally be assumed that they meet the aforementioned criteria.

### Which certification schemes for maintenance companies are currently available in Europe?

Certification schemes on third-party certification of maintenance services on extinguishing systems are available through several European certification bodies, as following (in alphabetical order):

certification body	Certification based on
BAFE (UK)	<b>SP 203-1</b> Design, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems Scheme
	<b>SP 203-3</b> Design, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Fixed Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems Scheme
	<b>SP 206</b> Design, Installation, Commissioning Recharge and Maintenance of Kitchen Fire Protection Systems Scheme
BRE (UK)	<b>LPS 1204</b> Requirements for firms engaged in the design installation, commissioning and servicing of gas extinguishing systems - issue 3.1. /2014
	<b>LPS 1014</b> Requirements for certificated fire detection and alarm systems firms - issue 5.4 / 2020
CNPP (FR)	<b>APSAD IF13</b> INSTALLATION/MAINTENANCE DE SYSTEMES EAG - Juin 2015
DBI (DK)	<b>DBI-Guidance 001</b> APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION COMPANIES" - 5 <sup>th</sup> edition May 2021
VdS (DE)	<b>VdS 2132</b> VdS Guidelines for the Approval of Installer Companies of Fire Extinguishing Systems - issue 2017/07

## 6 WHAT OPERATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED IN MAINTAINING GASEOUS FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS?

**NOTE:** In accordance with the European legislation, the requirements of Inspection and Maintenance are reserved to the national body of rules and regulations of each EU Member State.

### 6.1. Operations to be carried out by users/owners

The user shall carry out a programme of inspection, arrange a service schedule, and keep records of the inspections and servicing. The user shall carry out a programme of inspection, arrange a service schedule, and keep records of the inspections and servicing<sup>1</sup>.

**NOTE:** The continued capability for effective performance of a gaseous fire extinguishing system depends on fully adequate service procedures with, where possible, periodic testing.

These controls consist especially on checking (visually):

- The state of all components
- The nozzle position is not obstructed
- The state of piping and electrical wiring
- That the containers are correctly pressurized
- That control panels are in standby condition
- That the airtightness of the protected room is maintained
- The operating position of all selector valves
- That over-pressure and under-pressure vents are free to open and are not obstructed
- That all personnel who may have to operate the equipment or system are properly trained and authorized to do so and, in particular, that new employees have been instructed in its use (monthly).

These operations are recommended to be achieved at least weekly/monthly<sup>2</sup> and more frequently if construction works are in progress.

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<sup>1</sup> See EN 15004-1 chapter 9.3.

<sup>2</sup> Frequency of inspection by user might be regulated differently by local/national rules

## 6.2. Operations to be carried out by “Professionals”

Unless, there are different requirements in applicable standards, at least 2 maintenance visits<sup>3</sup> per year are recommended.

### A) Examination of operating documents

- Instructions for use and operation
- Log-book or safety register
- Technical file
- System certification (if existing or if required)

### B) Training/Education

- Education of users and owners
- Frequent training on the system installed on-site

### C) Visual inspection of the installation and components

- Compatibility of the extinguishing agent with the nature of the risk (equipment and materials stored).
- Condition of wiring, panels, sound and visual signalling devices.
- Structure of protected premises
- Containers, piping, nozzles, connection hoses and overpressure vents.

### D) Functional tests of the installation

- Extinguishing cycle tests by sector or zone (actuators disconnected)
- Verification of the signalling of information to the remote alarm receiving centre, service company or locally, as required.
- Verification of the control of the triggering devices (pyrotechnic cartridges and / or solenoid valves)
- Verification of the audibility of the audible evacuation alarms and the visibility of the illuminated signs.
- Testing of the servo-controlled functions (air conditioning cut-off, closing of valves and doors, remote control, etc.) according to a procedure to be defined with the end user.
- Determine the pressure in the containers for halocarbon gases or inert gases and of the charge in the CO<sub>2</sub> containers.
- Check the correct operation of all directional valves and stop valves.
- Power supply control
- Assess the integrity of the enclosure annually as per clause 9.2.4 of EN 15004-1: 2019

### E) Recertification and qualification of agent containers

According to “EURALARM-Guidance on the Periodic Testing of Transportable Gas Cylinders used in Fire Fighting Systems” and according to TPED (EU Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive).

### F) Inspection and test of connection to remote alarm receiving centre service company or locally, as required

**NOTE:** A suitable schedule for procedures for verification of the system is provided in EN 15004-1 Annex F

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<sup>3</sup> national regulations may differ



## 7 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

No.	Document
1.	"Maintenance of automatic gas extinguishing installations" in French (pdf) and English (doc) – document/presentation from FFMI
2.	EN 13306 :2018 - Maintenance — Maintenance Terminology
3.	EN 15004-1:2019-chapter 9 Fixed firefighting systems - Gas extinguishing systems - Part 1: Design, installation and maintenance (ISO 14520-1:2015, modified)
4.	CNPP APSAD R13 "Extinction automatique à gaz" – October 2019
5.	CNPP APSAD IF 13 "INSTALLATION/MAINTENANCE DE SYSTEMES EAG" - June 2015
6.	TPED - Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive 2010/35 / EU
7.	Regulation F'GAZ UE /517/2
8.	EURALARM-Guidance on the Periodic Testing of Transportable Gas Cylinders used in Fire Fighting Systems" (PG 2020-01)

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