

Fire Extinguisher Safety – European Union

Classes of Fire






Fire classes and extinguisher labels differ throughout the world. The following are used in Europe.

Fire Class	Description
Class A	Involves combustibles, such as paper, wood, cardboard and most plastics
Class B	Involves flammable/combustible liquids, such as petrol, kerosene, paraffin, grease and oil
Class C	Involves flammable gases, such as propane, butane and methane
Class D	Involves combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium
Class F	Involves cooking oils and fats

Note: Electrical fires involving equipment such as electrical circuits or electronic equipment are sometimes referred to as Class E fires, although the category does not officially exist under the European EN3 rating system.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are red, but they have colour-coded panels (up to 5% of the body) above the operating instructions that indicate what extinguishing agent is inside.

Panel Colour	Extinguishing Agent	Fire Class
 Signal red	Water	A
 Cream	Foam	A, B
 Blue	Dry or specialist powder	A, B, C or D
 Black	Carbon dioxide	B, live electrical equipment
 Yellow	Wet chemical	A, F