

NFPA 17A Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems

1998 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA 17A
Standard for
Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems
1998 Edition

This edition of NFPA 17A, *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems and acted on by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., at its Fall Meeting held November 17–19, 1997, in Kansas City, MO. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 16, 1998, with an effective date of February 6, 1998, and supersedes all previous editions.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule in the margin of the pages on which they appear. These lines are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition.

This edition of NFPA 17A was approved as an American National Standard on March 31, 1998.

Origin and Development of NFPA 17A

The Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems Committee was activated in 1952. On April 6, 1983, the Standards Council received a request to assign the subject of wet chemical extinguishing systems to the appropriate committee. Listed systems had been available for some time. After the Foam Committee declined the request, the Dry Chemical Committee was asked to assume responsibility for the project. In May 1983, the Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems Committee voted to accept the assignment and requested that the Standards Council expand the Committee Scope to include the new topic. The Committee also requested that the new document be identified as NFPA 17A, *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*. A subcommittee met in June 1983 to develop the text. In November 1984, the Council approved a request to change the name of the Committee to the Committee on Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems. The 1990 edition was a partial revision of the 1986 edition.

The 1998 edition of this standard has been revised to clarify the requirements for protection of unclosable openings and equipment shutdown.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, installation, operation, testing, maintenance, and use of dry and wet chemical extinguishing systems for fire protection.

Contents

Chapter 1 General	17A- 4	3-5 Discharge Nozzles	17A- 7
1-1 Scope	17A- 4	3-6 Special Requirements	17A- 7
1-2 Purpose	17A- 4	Chapter 4 Plans and Acceptance Tests	17A- 7
1-3 Qualifications	17A- 4	4-1 Specifications	17A- 7
1-4 Retroactivity Clause	17A- 4	4-2 Plans	17A- 8
1-5 Definitions	17A- 4	4-3 Approval of Installations	17A- 8
1-6 Units	17A- 5	Chapter 5 Inspection, Maintenance, and	
Chapter 2 Components	17A- 5	Recharging	17A- 8
2-1 General	17A- 5	5-1 General	17A- 8
2-2 Detectors	17A- 5	5-2 Owner's Inspection	17A- 8
2-3 Discharge Nozzles	17A- 5	5-3 Maintenance	17A- 8
2-4 Operating Devices	17A- 5	5-4 Recharging	17A- 9
2-5 Pipe and Fittings	17A- 5	5-5 Hydrostatic Testing	17A- 9
2-6 Wet Chemical	17A- 6	Chapter 6 Referenced Publications	17A- 9
2-7 Electrical Wiring and Equipment	17A- 6	Appendix A Explanatory Material	17A- 9
2-8 Indicators	17A- 6	Appendix B Referenced Publications	17A-12
Chapter 3 System Requirements	17A- 6	Index	17A-14
3-1 General	17A- 6		
3-2 System Actuation	17A- 6		
3-3 Supervision	17A- 6		
3-4 System Location	17A- 6		

NFPA 17
Standard for
Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Appendix A.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 6 and Appendix B.

Chapter 1 General

1-1* Scope.

1-1.1 The provisions of this standard apply to the design, installation, operation, testing, and maintenance of pre-engineered wet chemical fire extinguishing systems that discharge wet chemical from fixed nozzles and piping by means of expellant gas. Minimum requirements are specified for restaurant, commercial, and institutional hoods, plenums, ducts, and associated cooking appliances.

1-2 Purpose. This standard is prepared for the use and guidance of those charged with the purchasing, designing, installing, testing, inspecting, approving, listing, operating, or maintaining of pre-engineered wet chemical fire extinguishing systems in order that such equipment will function as intended throughout its life. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of new methods or devices, provided sufficient technical data are submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate that the new method or device is equivalent in quality, effectiveness, durability, and safety to that prescribed by this standard.

1-3* Qualifications. Only persons properly trained shall be considered competent to design, install, and service pre-engineered wet chemical systems.

1-4 Retroactivity Clause. The provisions of this document are considered necessary to provide a reasonable level of protection from loss of life and property from fire. They reflect situations and the state of the art at the time the standard was issued.

Unless otherwise noted, it is not intended that the provisions of this document be applied to facilities, equipment, structures, or installations that were existing or approved for construction or installation prior to the effective date of this document.

Exception: In those cases where it is determined by the authority having jurisdiction that the existing situation involves a distinct hazard to life or property, applicable portions of this standard shall apply to control the distinct hazard(s).

1-5 Definitions. For the purpose of clarification, the following general terms used with special technical meanings in this standard are defined.

Approved.* Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

Authority Having Jurisdiction.* The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, an installation, or a procedure.

Automatic Operation. Operation that does not require any human action.

Auxiliary Equipment. Listed equipment used in conjunction with the wet chemical systems, for example, to shut down power, fuel, or ventilation to the hazard being protected or to initiate signaling devices.

Branch Duct. The duct work that contains the exhaust air from a single hood or hazard area.

Common Duct. The duct work containing the exhaust air from two or more branch ducts.

Discharge Nozzle. Device from which the wet chemical is discharged to provide for suppression of a fire in the designated hazard.

Expellant Gas. The medium used to discharge the wet chemical solution from its container.

Indicator. A device that shows whether an extinguishing system is ready to operate or has already operated.

Inspection. Inspection is a “quick check” by the system owner to give reasonable assurance that the extinguishing system is fully charged and operable. This is done by seeing that the system is in place, that it has not been activated or tampered with, and that there is no obvious physical damage or condition to prevent operation.

Liquid Agent. See Wet Chemical.

Listed.* Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

Maintenance. Maintenance is a thorough examination by a trained person to give maximum assurance that the extinguishing system will operate as intended. It includes a thorough examination of system and components and any necessary repair or replacement of system components.

Manual Operation. Operation of a system requiring human action.

Manufacturer's Listed Installation and Maintenance Manual. The pamphlet referenced as part of the listing of the wet chemical extinguishing system. It contains a description of the hazards that can be protected as well as the limitations of the wet chemical extinguishing system. This pamphlet also requires that the wet chemical extinguishing system be designed, installed, inspected, maintained, and serviced in accordance with this standard.

Operating Devices. Mechanical, electrical, or pneumatic devices involved in the operation of a system whether “actuating devices” initiating operation (automatic detection devices or systems and manual actuation devices such as manual pulls or strike buttons) or “operated devices” responding to the actuation (release mechanisms, shutoff devices, alarms, and auxiliary equipment).

Owner' Manual. A pamphlet containing the manufacturer's recommendations for the proper inspection and operation of the extinguishing system.

Pipe. Circular conduit for conveying the wet chemical to the discharge nozzle(s). Wherever the term *pipe* is used in this standard, it shall be understood also to mean *tube*.

Pre-Engineered Systems. Those having predetermined flow rates, nozzle pressures, and quantities of liquid agent. These systems have the specific pipe size, maximum and minimum pipe lengths, flexible hose specifications, number of fittings, and number and types of nozzles prescribed by a testing laboratory. The maximum and minimum pipe lengths and the number of fittings shall be permitted to be expressed in equivalent feet of pipe. The hazards protected by these systems are specifically limited as to type and size by a testing laboratory, based on actual fire tests. Limitations on hazards that are permitted to be protected by these systems and piping and nozzle configurations are contained in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual, which is part of the listing of the system.

Recharge. The replacement of the wet chemical and expellant gas.

Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

Shutoff Devices. Devices that operate simultaneously with the extinguishing system to shut off fuel and power to appliances protected by the system and other appliances required to be shut off upon operation of the system.

Signal. A device that provides an audible or visual indication that a response is required.

Trained. One who has undergone the instructions necessary to safely design and install and reliably perform the maintenance and recharge service.

Transport Canada (TC). Has jurisdiction over design and transportation of compressed gas cylinders and cartridges.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The department that has jurisdiction over the design and transportation of compressed gas cylinders and cartridges.

Wet Agent. See Wet Chemical.

Wet Chemical.* Normally a solution of water and potassium carbonate-based chemical, potassium acetate-based chemical, potassium citrate-based chemical, or a combination thereof that forms an extinguishing agent.

1-6 Units.

1-6.1 When a primary value for measurement in English units as given in this standard is followed by a parenthetical equivalent value in metric units, the primary English value stated is to be regarded as the requirement.

1-6.1.1* Metric units of measurement in this standard are in accordance with the modernized metric system known as the International System of Units (SI).

1-6.1.2 The conversion procedure used for the SI units is to multiply the primary English quantity by the conversion factor and then round the result if necessary to the appropriate number of significant digits.

Chapter 2 Components

2-1 General. Only system components referenced or permitted in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance

manual or alternate components that are listed for use with the specific extinguishing system shall be used.

2-2 Detectors.

2-2.1 Detectors shall be a listed or approved device that is capable of detecting heat.

2-3 Discharge Nozzles. See Section 3-5.

2-3.1 Discharge nozzles shall be listed for their intended use.

2-3.1.1 Discharge nozzles shall be provided with an internal strainer or a separate listed strainer located immediately upstream of the nozzle.

2-3.1.2 Discharge nozzles shall be of brass, stainless steel, or other corrosion-resistant materials, or be protected inside and out against corrosion. They shall be made of noncombustible materials and shall withstand the expected fire exposure without deformation.

2-3.1.3* Discharge nozzles shall be permanently marked for identification.

2-3.1.4 All discharge nozzles shall be provided with caps or other suitable devices to prevent the entrance of grease vapors, moisture, or other foreign materials into the piping. The protection device shall blow off, open, or blow out upon agent discharge.

2-4 Operating Devices.

2-4.1 Operating devices shall be listed.

2-4.1.1 Operating devices shall be designed for the service they will encounter and shall not be rendered inoperative or susceptible to accidental operation.

2-4.1.2 Operating devices shall be designed to function properly through a minimum temperature range from 32°F to 120°F (0°C to 49°C) or marked to indicate their temperature limitations.

2-4.2 Manual Actuators.

2-4.2.1 Manual actuators shall not require a force of more than 40 lb (178 N) or a movement of more than 14 in. (35.6 cm) to secure operation.

2-4.2.2 All manual actuators shall be provided with operating instructions. These instructions shall be permitted to include the use of pictographs and shall have lettering at least 1/4 in. (6.35 mm) in height. (See 3-2.1.3.)

2-4.2.3 All remote manual operating devices shall be identified as to the hazard they protect.

2-4.3 Shutoff Devices.

2-4.3.1 Upon activation of any cooking equipment fire extinguishing system, all sources of fuel and power to all equipment protected by the system shall be shut down.

Gas appliances not requiring protection but located under the same ventilation equipment shall also be shut off.

Exception No. 1: Steam supplied from an external source.

Exception No. 2: Exhaust fans and dampers are not required to be shut down upon system actuation as the systems have been tested under both zero- and high-velocity flow conditions.

2-4.3.1.1 If the expellant gas is used to pneumatically operate these devices, the gas shall be taken prior to its entry into the wet chemical tank.

2-4.3.2 Shutoff devices shall require manual resetting prior to fuel or power being restored.

2-5 Pipe and Fittings.

2-5.1* General. Pipe and fittings shall be of noncombustible material having physical and chemical characteristics compatible with the wet chemical solution. Galvanized pipe and fittings shall not be used. The pressure rating of the pipe fittings and connection joints shall withstand the maximum expected pressure in the piping system. Pipe, tubing, and fitting materials and types shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

2-6 Wet Chemical.

2-6.1* The type of wet chemical used in the system shall be listed for the particular system and recommended by the manufacturer of the wet chemical system.

CAUTION No. 1: Wet chemical solutions of different formulations or different manufacturers shall not be mixed.

CAUTION No. 2: Wet chemical, when discharged, is in the form of a fine spray. Some of the agent can settle on surrounding surfaces and can have a corrosive effect on electrical components and cooking equipment. Prompt cleanup will minimize staining or corrosion.

2-7 Electrical Wiring and Equipment.

2-7.1 Electrical wiring and equipment shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*®, or the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

2-8 Indicators. Wet chemical systems shall be provided with an indicator to show that the system is in a ready condition or is in need of recharging.

Chapter 3 System Requirements

3-1 General.

3-1.1 Wet chemical fire extinguishing systems shall comply with standard UL 300.

3-1.2 Use. Hazards and equipment that can be protected using wet chemical extinguishing systems include restaurant, commercial, and institutional hoods; plenums, ducts, and filters with their associated cooking appliances; and special grease removal devices, odor control devices, and energy recovery devices installed in the exhaust system.

3-1.3 Applications. See the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual for system limitations and applications for which wet chemical extinguishing systems shall be considered satisfactory protection.

3-1.4 Each protected cooking appliance, individual hood, and branch exhaust duct directly connected to the hood shall be protected by a system or systems designed for simultaneous operation.

3-1.5 Where two or more hazards can be simultaneously involved in fire by reason of their proximity, the hazards shall be protected by individual systems installed to operate simultaneously, or by a single system designed to protect all hazards that can be simultaneously involved. Any hazard that will allow fire propagation from one area to another shall constitute a single fire hazard.

3-2 System Actuation.

3-2.1 All systems shall have both automatic and manual methods of actuation. The automatic and manual means of system actuation, external to the control head or releasing device, shall be separate and independent of each other so that a failure of one will not impair the operation of the other.

3-2.1.1 Automatic detection and system actuation shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

3-2.1.2 All devices necessary for proper operation of the system shall function simultaneously with the system operation.

3-2.1.3 Operation of any manual actuator shall be all that is required to bring about the full operation of the system. At least one manual actuator shall be provided for each system.

3-2.1.4 All operating devices shall be designed, located, installed, or protected so that they are not subject to mechanical, environmental, or other conditions that could render them inoperative or cause inadvertent operation of the system.

3-2.1.5 A signal shall be provided to show that the system has operated, that personnel response is needed, and that the system is in need of recharge. The extinguishing system shall be connected to the fire alarm system, if provided, in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, so that the actuation of the extinguishing system will sound the fire alarm as well as provide the function of the extinguishing system.

3-2.1.6* A readily accessible means for manual activation shall be located in a path of exit or egress no more than 4 ft (1.2 m) above the floor and shall clearly identify the hazard protected.

Exception: Automatic systems protecting common exhaust ducts only shall not require a remote manual actuator.

3-2.1.6.1 The means for mechanical actuator(s) shall be mechanical and shall not rely on electrical power for actuation.

Exception No. 1: Electrical power shall be permitted to be used for manual activation if a reserve power supply is provided or if supervision is provided as per Section 3-3.

Exception No. 2: When a listed releasing mechanism is used employing a single line for mechanical detection and remote manual control, the remote manual control shall be installed inline, prior to all detection devices, so malfunction of one does not impede operation of the other.

3-3 Supervision.

3-3.1 Where supervision of any or all of the following is provided, it shall be designed to give an indication of trouble in the following:

- (a) The automatic detection system
- (b) The electrical actuation circuit
- (c) The electrical power supply

3-3.2 Signals indicating the failure of supervised devices or equipment shall give prompt and positive indication of any failure and shall be distinctive from signals indicating operation or hazardous conditions.

3-4* System Location.

3-4.1 Wet chemical containers and expellant gas assemblies shall be located within the temperature range specified in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual. If ambient temperatures outside the manufacturer's operating temperature range are expected, protection shall be provided to maintain the temperature within the listed range.

3-4.2 Wet chemical containers and expellant gas assemblies shall not be located where they could be subjected to mechanical, chemical, or other damage. Where damage due to chemical or mechanical exposure is expected, protective devices such as enclosures or guards acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction shall be provided.

3-4.3 Wet chemical containers and expellant gas assemblies shall be accessible for inspection, maintenance, and recharge.

3-4.4 Wet chemical containers and expellant gas assemblies shall be located near the hazard or hazards protected but not where they will be exposed to the fire.

3-5 Discharge Nozzles. See Section 2-3.

3-5.1 All discharge nozzles shall be designed and subsequently located, installed, or protected so that they are not subject to mechanical, environmental, or other conditions that could render them inoperative.

3-5.2 Discharge nozzles shall be connected and supported such that they will not be readily put out of alignment.

3-6 Special Requirements.

3-6.1 Systems protecting two or more hoods or plenums, or both, that meet the requirements of 3-1.5 shall be installed to ensure the simultaneous operation of all systems protecting the hoods, plenums, and associated cooking appliances located below the hoods.

3-6.1.1 The building owner(s) shall be responsible for the protection of a common exhaust duct(s) used by more than one tenant.

The tenant shall be responsible for the protection of common exhaust duct(s) serving hoods located within the tenant's space and up to the point of connection to the building owner's common exhaust duct. The tenant's common duct shall be considered a branch duct to the building owner's common duct.

3-6.1.2 A fusible link or heat detector shall be provided above each cooking appliance or group of appliances protected by a single nozzle.

Exception: Cooking appliances located directly below an exhaust duct having a fusible link or heat detector installed at or within 12 in. (305 mm) of the entrance to the duct

3-6.1.3 Where the pipe or other conduit penetrates a duct or hood, the penetration shall have a liquidtight continuous external weld or shall be sealed by a listed device.

3-6.2* Automatic protection shall be provided for all portions of a common exhaust duct. This shall be accomplished by one of the following methods:

(a) *Simultaneous operation of all cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems, one or more of which also protect the common exhaust duct. [See Figure A-3-6.2(a).]

Upon operation of these systems, fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the common exhaust duct shall be shut off.

(b) *Simultaneous operation of all systems that protect only the common exhaust duct. [See Figure A-3-6.2(b).]

Upon operation of the common exhaust duct systems, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the common exhaust duct shall be shut off.

(c) *Independent operation of systems protecting only the common exhaust duct.

Each system shall protect a portion of the common exhaust duct so that the entire common exhaust duct is protected. [See Figure A-3-6.2(c).] Each common exhaust duct system shall protect the entire downstream common exhaust duct.

Upon operation of any common duct system, fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by that portion of the common exhaust duct shall be shut off.

(d) *Independent operation of cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems where one of these systems protects the entire common exhaust duct. [See Figure A-3-6.2(d).]

Upon operation of the cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems that also protect the common exhaust duct, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the common exhaust duct shall be shut off.

Upon operation of any system not protecting the common exhaust duct, only the cooking appliances protected by that system shall be shut off, provided these systems have sufficient fire hazard separation so that simultaneous operation of an additional system or systems shall not be required.

(e) *Independent operation of cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems, with two or more of these systems also protecting the common exhaust duct. [See Figure A-3-6.2(e).]

Upon operation of a cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems that protect a portion of the common exhaust duct, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by that portion of the common exhaust duct shall be shut off.

Each common exhaust duct system shall provide protection for the largest common exhaust duct downstream of each system.

Upon operation of a cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems that do not protect a portion of the common exhaust duct, only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by that system shall be shut off.

Simultaneous operation of another cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct system shall not be required, provided there is sufficient fire hazard separation between hoods and adjacent branch ducts. (See 3-1.5.)

(f) *Independent operation of a combination of

1. A system that protects only a portion of the common exhaust duct
2. Cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems, two or more of which protect the remainder of the common exhaust ducts. [See Figure A-3-6.2(f).]

Upon operation of any system, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the portion of the common exhaust duct being protected shall be shut off.

3-6.2.1 In 3-6.2(b) through (f), simultaneous operation, a fusible link or heat detector shall be located at each branch duct to common duct connection. Actuation of any branch duct to common exhaust duct fusible link or heat detector shall actuate the system protecting that portion of the common duct and shut off fuel or power to all protected hazards connected to that portion of the common exhaust duct.

3-6.3 Movable cooking equipment shall be provided with a means to ensure that it is correctly positioned in relation to the appliance discharge nozzle during cooking operations.

Chapter 4 Plans and Acceptance Tests

4-1* Specifications. Specifications for wet chemical fire extinguishing systems shall be drawn up with care under the supervision of a trained person and with the advice of the authority having jurisdiction. To ensure a satisfactory system, the following items shall be included in the specifications.

The specifications shall

- (a) Designate the authority having jurisdiction and indicate whether plans are required
- (b) State that the installation conforms to this standard and meets the approval of the authority having jurisdiction
- (c) Indicate that only equipment that is referenced in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual or alternate suppliers' components that are listed for use with the specific extinguishing system shall be used

Exception: Special auxiliary devices acceptable to the system manufacturer and the authority having jurisdiction.

- (d) Include the specific tests, if any, that are required
- (e) Indicate the hazard to be protected and include such information as physical dimensions, cooking appliances, energy sources for each appliance, and air-handling equipment

4-2 Plans. Where plans are required, the responsibility for their preparation shall be entrusted only to trained persons.

4-2.1 The plans shall be drawn to an indicated scale or be suitably dimensioned and shall be reproducible.

4-2.2 The plans shall contain sufficient detail to enable the authority having jurisdiction to evaluate the protection of the hazard(s).

4-2.3 The details on the system shall include the size, length, and arrangement of connected piping and the description and location of nozzles so that the adequacy of the system can be determined. Information shall be submitted pertaining to the location and function of detection devices, operating devices, auxiliary equipment, and electrical circuitry, if used.

4-2.4 Approval of Plans. Where plans are required, they shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction for approval before work starts.

4-2.5 Where field conditions necessitate any substantial change from the approved plan, the as-installed plans shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction for approval.

4-3 Approval of Installations. The completed system shall be tested by trained personnel as required by the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual. The tests shall determine that the system has been properly installed and will function as intended.

4-3.1 The installer shall certify that the system has been installed in accordance with the approved plans and the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

4-3.2* Where required by the authority having jurisdiction, the approval tests shall include a discharge of wet chemical to verify that the system is properly installed and functional.

4-3.3 The owner shall be provided with a copy of the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual or listed owner's manual.

Chapter 5 Inspection, Maintenance, and Recharging

5-1 General.

5-1.1* Storage. Recharging supplies of wet chemical shall be stored in the original closed shipping container supplied by the manufacturer. These containers shall not be opened until the system is recharged.

5-1.1.1 Wet chemical supplies shall be maintained within the manufacturer's recommended storage temperature range.

5-1.2 Expellant Gas. A method and instructions shall be provided for checking the amount or the pressure of expellant gas to ensure that it is sufficient for the proper operation of the system.

5-1.3 Access. System access for inspection or maintenance that requires opening panels in fire chases or ducts, or both, shall not be permitted while any appliance(s) or equipment protected by that system is in operation.

5-1.4* Recharge. After any discharge, or if insufficient charge is noted during an inspection or maintenance procedure, the following procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual:

- (a) The system shall be properly recharged.
- (b) The system shall be placed in the normal operating condition.
- (c) The piping shall be flushed in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions (only following a discharge).

5-2 Owner's Inspection.

5-2.1 Inspection shall be conducted on a monthly basis in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual or the owner's manual. As a minimum, this "quick check" or inspection shall include verification of the following:

- (a) The extinguishing system is in its proper location.
- (b) The manual actuators are unobstructed.
- (c) The tamper indicators and seals are intact.
- (d) The maintenance tag or certificate is in place.
- (e) No obvious physical damage or condition exists that might prevent operation.
- (f) The pressure gauge(s), if provided, is in operable range.
- (g) The nozzle blowoff caps are intact and undamaged.
- (h) The hood, duct, and protected cooking appliances have not been replaced, modified, or relocated.

5-2.2 If any deficiencies are found, appropriate corrective action shall be taken immediately.

5-2.3 Personnel making inspections shall keep records for those extinguishing systems that were found to require corrective actions.

5-2.4 At least monthly, the date the inspection is performed and the initials of the person performing the inspection shall be recorded. The records shall be retained for the period between the semiannual maintenance inspections.

5-3 Maintenance.

5-3.1* A trained person who has undergone the instructions necessary to perform the maintenance and recharge service

reliably and has the applicable manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual and service bulletins shall service the wet chemical fire extinguishing system 6 months apart as outlined in 5-3.1.1.

5-3.1.1* At least semiannually, maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual. As a minimum, such maintenance shall include the following:

- (a) A check to see that the hazard has not changed
- (b) An examination of all detectors, the expellant gas container(s), the agent container(s), releasing devices, piping, hose assemblies, nozzles, signals, all auxiliary equipment, and the liquid level of all nonpressurized wet chemical containers
- (c) *Verification that the agent distribution piping is not obstructed
- (d) Where semiannual maintenance of any wet chemical containers or system components reveals conditions such as, but not limited to, corrosion or pitting in excess of the manufacturer's limits; structural damage or fire damage; or repairs by soldering, welding, or brazing; the affected part(s) shall be replaced or hydrostatically tested in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer or the listing agency. The hydrostatic testing of wet chemical containers shall follow the applicable procedures outlined in Section 5-5.
- (e) All wet chemical systems shall be tested, which shall include the operation of the detection system signals and releasing devices, including manual stations and other associated equipment. A discharge of the wet chemical normally is not part of this test.
- (f) Where the maintenance of the system(s) reveals defective parts that could cause an impairment or failure of proper operation of the system(s), the affected parts shall be replaced or repaired in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.
- (g) The maintenance report, with recommendations, if any, shall be filed with the owner or with the designated party responsible for the system.
- (h) *Each wet chemical system shall have a tag or label securely attached, indicating the month and year the maintenance is performed and identifying the person performing the service. Only the current tag or label shall remain in place.

5-3.2* Fixed temperature-sensing elements of the fusible metal alloy type shall be replaced at least annually from the date of installation. They shall be destroyed when removed.

5-3.2.1 The year of manufacture and the date of installation of the fixed temperature-sensing element shall be marked on the system inspection tag. The tag shall be signed or initialed by the installer.

5-3.3 Fixed temperature-sensing elements other than the fusible metal alloy type shall be permitted to remain continuously in service, provided they are inspected and cleaned or replaced if necessary in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions every 12 months or more frequently to ensure proper operation of the system.

5-4 Recharging.

5-4.1 All extinguishing systems shall be recharged after use or as indicated by an inspection or maintenance procedure.

5-4.2 Systems shall be recharged in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

5-5* Hydrostatic Testing. The following parts of wet chemical extinguishing systems shall be subjected to a hydrostatic pressure test at intervals not exceeding 12 years:

- (a) Wet chemical containers
- (b) Auxiliary pressure containers
- (c) Hose assemblies

Exception No. 1: Auxiliary pressure containers not exceeding 2-in. (0.05-m) outside diameter and less than 2 ft (0.6 m) in length.

Exception No. 2: Auxiliary pressure containers bearing the DOT "3E" marking.

5-5.1 Wet chemical containers, auxiliary pressure containers, and hose assemblies shall be subjected to a hydrostatic test pressure equal to the marked factory test pressure or the test pressure specified by the manufacturer. No leakage, rupture, or movement of hose couplings shall be permitted. The test procedure shall be in accordance with the manufacturers' detailed written hydrostatic test instructions.

Exception: Containers bearing DOT or TC markings shall be tested or replaced in accordance with the appropriate DOT or TC requirements.

5-5.2 Wet chemical agent removed from the containers prior to hydrostatic testing shall be discarded.

5-5.3 To protect the hazard during hydrostatic testing, if there is no connected reserve, alternate protection acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction shall be provided.

Chapter 6 Referenced Publications

6-1 The following documents or portions thereof are referenced within this standard as mandatory requirements and shall be considered part of the requirements of this standard. The edition indicated for each referenced mandatory document is the current edition as of the date of the NFPA issuance of this standard. Some of these mandatory documents might also be referenced in this standard for specific informational purposes and, therefore, are also listed in Appendix B.

6-1.1 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*®, 1996 edition.

NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, 1996 edition.

6-1.2 UL Publication. Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

UL 300-1994, *Fire Extinguishing Systems for Protection of Restaurant Cooking Areas, Fire Testing of*.

Appendix A Explanatory Material

Appendix A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This appendix contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A-1-1 The wet chemical systems described in this standard are designed to discharge wet chemical from fixed nozzles and piping by means of expellant gas. The intent of the standard is to present the design considerations applicable to these systems.

The wet chemicals produced by various manufacturers usually are not identical in all characteristics, and each manufacturer designs equipment for use with a specific wet chemical. Therefore, system design principles applicable to the products of one manufacturer are not applicable to the products of another manufacturer. As a result, it is not practical to include system design details as part of this standard. However, such system design details are an integral part of the listing of the systems and are included in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

A-1-3 It might be necessary for many of those charged with the purchasing, inspecting, testing, approving, operating, and maintaining of this equipment to consult an experienced fire protection engineer, competent in this field, in order to discharge their respective duties effectively.

A-1-5 Approved. The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

A-1-5 Authority Having Jurisdiction. The phrase "authority having jurisdiction" is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

A-1-5 Listed. The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation; some organizations do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The authority having jurisdiction should utilize the system employed by the listing organization to identify a listed product.

A-1-5 Wet Chemical. The terms *liquid agent* and *wet agent* are used interchangeably with *wet chemical*.

A-1-6.1.1 See IEEE/ASTM SI 10, *Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System*.

A-2-3.1.3 Stamping part numbers into the body of the nozzle is an acceptable method of meeting the identification requirement.

A-2-5.1 Piping. Pre-engineered systems do not need calculations for flow rate, pressure drop, and nozzle pressure, since they have been tested for fire extinguishment with minimum

and maximum piping limitations and minimum and maximum temperature limitations. These limitations have been verified by testing laboratories and are published in the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual.

A-2-6.1 Wet Chemical Solution Characteristics. A wet chemical solution is generally potassium carbonate-based, potassium acetate-based, potassium citrate-based, or a combination thereof, and mixed with water to form an alkaline solution capable of being discharged through piping or tubing when under expellant gas pressure.

Its effect on fires in common cooking oils and fats is to combine with these materials to form a vapor suppression foam that floats on a liquid surface, such as in deep fat fryers, and effectively prevents reignition of the grease.

Extinguishing Mechanisms. Wet chemical solution applied to flammable liquid surfaces will result in the rapid spreading of a vapor-suppressing foam on the fuel surface. The foam extinguishes and secures the flame by forming a barrier between the liquid fuel and oxygen. This barrier excludes oxygen from the fuel source and eliminates the release of flammable vapors from the fuel surface. The cooling effect of this solution also lowers the temperature of the flammable fuel, further decreasing fuel vapor release.

A-3-2.1.6 Common exhaust ducts normally are located in concealed areas such that the need for manual discharge of the system may not be readily apparent. It is recommended that the number and location of remote controls, if any, be given careful consideration.

A-3-4 The phrase "wet chemical containers and expellant gas assemblies" is understood to include stored pressure assemblies.

A-3-6.2 One example of each acceptable method is presented in Figures A-3-6.2(a)–(f). These figures are not intended to be all-inclusive.

A-3-6.2(a) Separate cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems are interconnected so that they operate simultaneously. One or more of these systems also protect the entire common exhaust duct.

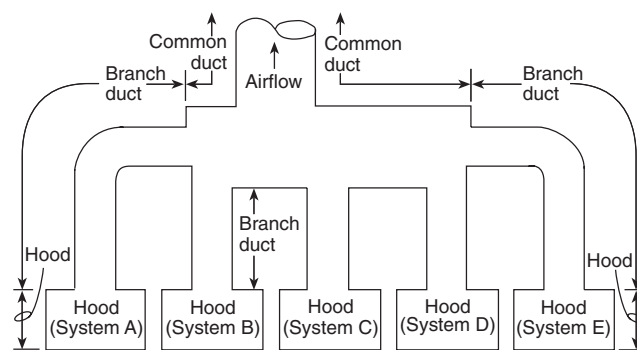


Figure A-3-6.2(a) Simultaneous operation of all systems.

Scenario: A fire is detected by System A. System A, protecting cooking appliances, a hood, and a branch duct, is actuated. Simultaneously, Systems B, C, D, and E are also actuated. All fuel or power to all protected appliances served by the common exhaust duct is shut off.

A-3-6.2(b) Upon operation of the common exhaust duct systems, the fuel or power to all protected appliances served by the common exhaust duct is shut off.

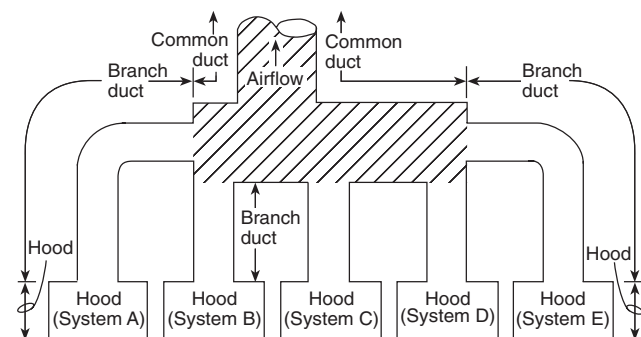


Figure A-3-6.2(b) Simultaneous operation of all systems that protect only the common exhaust duct.

Scenario No. 1: A fire is detected by one of the systems protecting the common exhaust duct. All systems protecting the common exhaust duct are actuated simultaneously. Fuel or power to all protected appliances served by the common exhaust duct is shut off.

Scenario No. 2: System A, protecting the cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct, detects a fire. Only System A is actuated, and only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by System A is shut off.

A-3-6.2(c) Simultaneous operation of another system or systems is not needed, provided there is sufficient fire hazard separation between hoods and adjacent branch ducts. (See 3-1.5.)

Each system protects a portion of the common exhaust duct so that the entire common exhaust duct is protected.

Each common exhaust duct system protects a portion of the common exhaust duct and, when actuated, shuts off fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by that portion of the common exhaust duct.

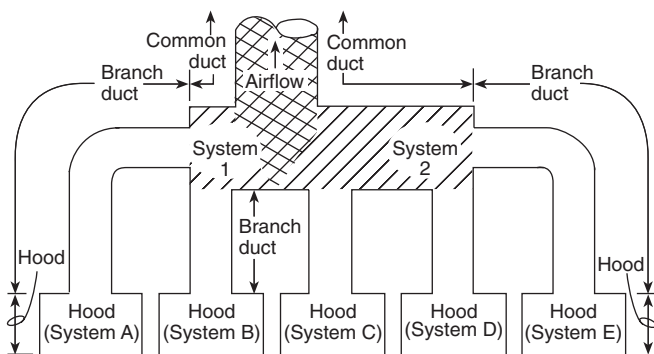


Figure A-3-6.2(c) Independent operation of systems that protect only the common exhaust duct.

Scenario No. 1: Common duct System 1 detects a fire and actuates. Fuel or power to all cooking appliances protected by Systems A and B is shut off. Systems A and B are not actuated. Cooking appliances protected by Systems C, D, and E remain in operation.

Scenario No. 2: System A, B, C, D, or E detects a fire. Only the system detecting the fire is actuated, and only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by that system is shut off.

A-3-6.2(d) When the system that also protects the common exhaust duct actuates, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the common exhaust duct is shut off. If any other system is actuated, only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by that system is shut off.

Simultaneous operation of another system or systems is not needed, provided there is sufficient fire hazard separation between hoods and adjacent branch ducts. (See 3-1.5.)

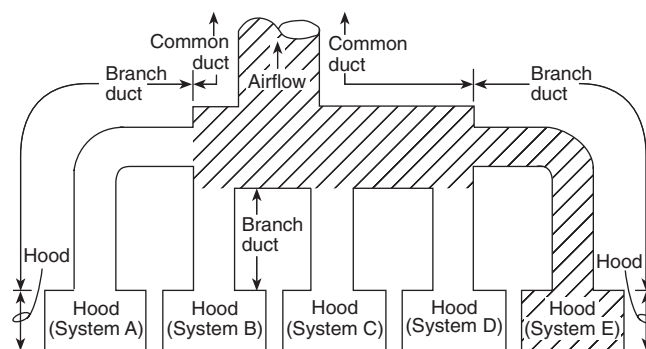


Figure A-3-6.2(d) Independent operation of cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems where one of these systems protects the entire common exhaust duct.

Scenario No. 1: A fire is detected by System E, which also protects the common exhaust duct. System E actuates, and the fuel or power to all cooking appliances served by the common exhaust duct is shut off.

Scenario No. 2: A fire is detected by System B. Only System B actuates, and only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by System B is shut off.

A-3-6.2(e) When a cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct system that also protects a portion of the common duct is actuated, the fuel or power to all protected appliances served by that portion of the common exhaust duct is shut off.

When a system is actuated that does not protect a portion of the common exhaust duct, only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by that system is shut off.

Simultaneous operation of another system or systems is not needed, provided there is sufficient fire hazard separation between hoods and adjacent branch ducts. (See 3-1.5.)

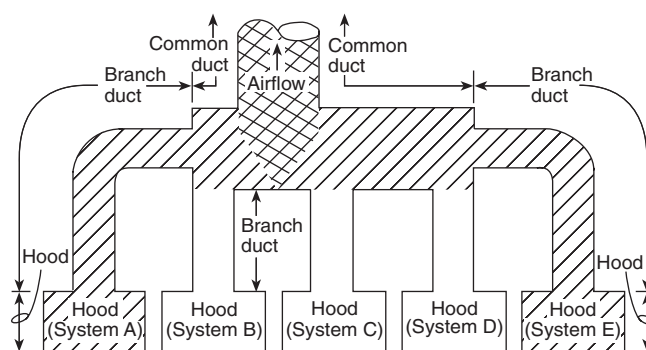


Figure A-3-6.2(e) Independent operation of cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems with two or more of these systems also protecting the common exhaust duct.

Scenario No. 1: System C actuates upon detecting a fire. Fuel and power to the cooking appliances protected by System C are shut off. No other systems are affected.

Scenario No. 2: System E actuates upon detecting a fire. Fuel or power to the cooking appliances served by that portion of the common exhaust duct is shut off; however, Systems C and D are not actuated. Cooking appliances protected by Systems A and B are not affected.

A-3-6.2(f) Simultaneous operation of another cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct system is not needed, provided there is sufficient fire separation between hoods and adjacent branch ducts. (See 3-1.5.)

Upon operation of any system, the fuel or power to all protected cooking appliances served by the portion of the common exhaust duct being protected is shut off.

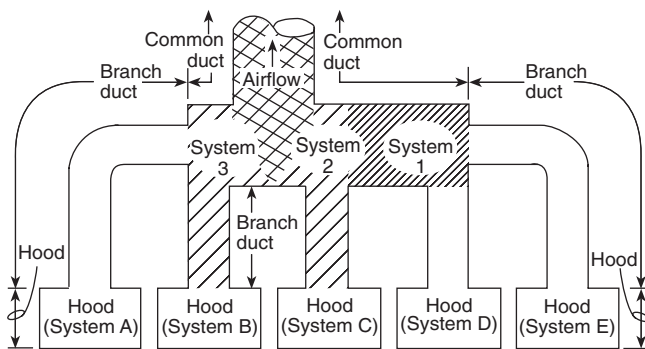


Figure A-3-6.2(f) Independent operation of (a) a combination of a system that protects only a portion of the common exhaust duct and (b) cooking appliance, hood, and branch duct systems, two or more of which protect the remainder of the common exhaust ducts.

Scenario No. 1: A fire is detected by System B or C. If System B actuates, the fuel or power to the protected cooking appliances of Systems A and B is shut off. System A is not actuated.

If System C actuates, only the fuel or power to the appliances protected by System C is shut off.

Scenario No. 2: A fire is detected by System D or E. Only that system actuates, and only the fuel or power to the cooking appliances protected by that system is shut off.

Scenario No. 3: A fire is detected by System 1. Only System 1 actuates, and only the fuel or power to the protected appliances served by Systems D and E is shut off. Systems D and E are not actuated.

A-4-1 One of the first steps in the design and installation of a fire extinguishing system should be to maintain complete and accurate records. Establishment of a job file will provide a means of documentation. A job file should contain all drawings, sketches, checklists, notes, maintenance agreements, and correspondence related to the installation from start to finish. Photographs are encouraged and should include a wide shot that shows the location of all appliances in the protected area at the time of installation. The photographs, as well as any checklists, drawings, or sketches, should be signed and dated.

A-4-3.2 When a discharge test is required, contact the particular system manufacturer for detailed functional discharge procedures. The use of substitute liquids, such as water, is not endorsed by all of the wet chemical extinguishing system manufacturers.

A-5-1.1 Quality. The characteristics of the system are dependent on the composition of the wet chemical solution and the

type of expellant gas, as well as upon other factors; therefore, it is imperative to use the wet chemical provided by the manufacturer of the system and the type of expellant gas specified by the manufacturer of the system.

Systems are designed on the basis of the flow and extinguishing characteristics of a specific formulation of wet chemical.

Storage. Storage of wet chemical solution in containers other than those supplied by the manufacturer may result in agent contamination or deterioration and confusion regarding its identity.

A-5-1.4 Hazards to Personnel. Wet chemical solutions are relatively harmless and normally have no lasting significant effects on the skin, respiratory system, or clothing. They may produce mild, temporary irritation, but the symptoms usually will disappear when contact is eliminated. Irritation of the eyes should be treated by flushing with tap water for 15 minutes or longer. Any condition of prolonged irritation should be referred to a physician for treatment.

Disposal of wet chemical is best handled by flushing with water.

These systems are investigated to determine that they do not splash burning grease when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's listed installation and maintenance manual. It is known that potassium carbonate is moderately irritating to the skin and eyes and repeated skin contact may lead to dermatitis, but this is based on concentrations higher than those used in wet chemical extinguishing system units.

A-5-3.1 It is recommended that system designers and installers and maintenance personnel be retrained at least every 3 years to be updated with current information on system changes and service bulletins.

A-5-3.1.1 Regular service contracts with the equipment manufacturer or an authorized installation or maintenance company are recommended.

A-5-3.1.1(c) The following methods may be used to verify that piping is not obstructed:

- (a) Disassembly of all piping
- (b) Conducting a full or partial discharge test
- (c) Utilizing other methods recommended by the manufacturer

A-5-3.1.1(h) Under special circumstances or when local requirements are in effect, additional information may be desirable or required.

A-5-3.2 The date of manufacture marked on fusible metal alloy sensing elements does not limit when they can be used. These devices have unlimited shelf life. The intent of 5-3.2 is to require replacement of fusible metal alloy sensing elements that have been installed for up to 1 year in environments subjecting them to contaminant-loading, such as grease in restaurant hoods and ducts that could adversely affect their proper operation.

A-5-5 DOT- or TC-marked cylinders can be required to be subjected to more frequent testing.

Appendix B Referenced Publications

B-1 The following documents or portions thereof are referenced within this standard for informational purposes only and are thus not considered part of the requirements of this standard unless also listed in Chapter 6. The edition indicated here for each reference is the current edition as of the date of the NFPA issuance of this standard.