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Commercial Kitchens & Class K Fire Extinguishers

In the State of Wisconsin commercial buildings with kitchens or cooking areas are required to meet certain minimum standards with regard to fire suppression equipment.

Do These Requirements Apply To My Kitchen?

The requirements outlined below apply to all kitchens or cooking areas in commercial buildings unless the kitchen or cooking area is located in a residence or unless the only appliance used in the kitchen is a microwave.

What Is a Class K Fire Extinguisher?

A Class K or Type K extinguisher is one that is designed specifically to extinguish cooking fires. Modern cooking oils burn at much higher temperatures than lards and other fats that were used in the past. The old 2A10BC extinguishers are able to extinguish fires involving these new cooking media. However, these new cooking media hold a significant amount of heat after extinguishment. This may result in a case of reigniting of the cooking media. Class K extinguishers are designed to cool the burning cooking media as well as to extinguish it.

Do I Need a Class K Extinguisher?

If you have a kitchen or cooking area in a commercial building, you must have a Class K extinguisher within 30 feet of any cooking appliance. As mentioned above, the exception is for a kitchen in a residence.

How Many Class K Extinguishers Do I Need?

Most Kitchens and cooking areas require only one Class K extinguisher. However, if the Class K extinguisher cannot be placed so that it may be reached within 30 feet walking distance of any of the appliances in the kitchen, additional Class K extinguishers may be required.

Can a Class K Extinguisher Be Used On Non-Cooking Fires?

Some Class K extinguishers are also rated for Class A fires. Class A fires are ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, plastics, fabrics, etc. Unless the extinguisher is so rated it should be used only for cooking fires.

Do I Still Need a 2A10BC Extinguisher For My Kitchen?

The code still requires that a 2A10BC (5 lb.) extinguisher be provided for ordinary combustibles. This extinguisher must be within 75 feet walking distance of any point in the building. It need not be located in the kitchen. In the event that the Class K extinguisher is rated for 2A (ordinary combustibles) the 2A10Bc requirement will be met by the same extinguisher and an additional extinguisher will not be required.

What Size Class K Extinguisher Will I Need?

There are two sizes of Class K extinguishers available. The code does not specify a particular size for any application. The business owner must decide which size would be more appropriate for his/her situation depending upon the equipment being protected.

**If you have any questions regarding
Type K fire extinguishers,
personnel from
the Superior Fire Department
are available to assist you.**