



## TOOL BOX 028-INSTALLATION OF A FIRE EXTINGUISHER - HEIGHT

### SANS 10105:1

**4.2.4** Extinguishers shall be installed with the carrying handle of the extinguisher not more than **1,5 m above the floor**. The clearance between the bottom of the extinguishers on brackets and the floor shall not be **less than 3 cm**.

SANS has given you a minimum and maximum height to play with.

Now you must take into consideration the risks involved when you set the height.

The average height for each sex within a population varies significantly, with men being (on average) taller than women.

Average height of a man is 1.748m

Average height of a woman is 1.634m

Average height of both sexes combined is approximately 1.691m

Now go back to the 1.5m – 3cm rule.

Now look at the people around you within the establishment.

Is it mainly staffed by men or woman? Maybe a 50 – 50 split in the sexes.

Is it an old age home, is the place occupied mainly with disabled people, if so the majority of the staff will probably be female.

Now reflect back to the OHSAct – “Reasonable and Practicable”

Now Look at the sizes, and total weight of each extinguishers.

Back again to the 1.5m-3cm rule

1.5 is far too high as most people will be lifting just under chin level. It would be fine for anything less than 7kg (in terms of what is considered in SANS10400 and the types and sizes classed as a building requirement- only extinguishers 4.5kg charge and upwards is considered as part of the building protection).

So your heaviest extinguisher would be (9kg/9ltr) 12kg+ to (5kg Steel CO2) 18-20kg.

The ideal height would be one metre from the ground to the carry handle at most – This allows average whether a woman or a man would be just above waist high.

Reasons is in toolbox talk 027.

<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Name:</b> _____	_____	_____

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