

Fire Extinguishers

Motorboats are required to carry readily accessible fire extinguishers accepted for marine use by the Coast Guard. The size and number of extinguishers accepted for use on motorboats depend on the size of your boat and whether or not you have a fixed extinguishing system installed aboard. Fire extinguishers are not required for outboard pleasure boats less than 26 feet in length, or those that are not carrying passengers for hire, have no permanently installed fuel tanks, or do not have spaces in which explosive or flammable gases or vapors can collect. (For specific requirements, see **Table A**.) The minimum size approved for use aboard pleasure boats is the B-I size extinguisher. All extinguishers must be readily accessible (preferably not stowed next to common fire sources) and must be kept in serviceable condition. An extinguisher is suitable for marine use when it bears a label that has either:

- Coast Guard approval numbers, “Marine Type USCG” or both markings.
- Information stating that it is listed with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and suitable for marine use. The extinguisher must be of the type and size described in **Table B**. UL-listed extinguishers must bear a UL rating of 5-B:C or higher.

Note: All recently manufactured, UL Marine Type 5 extinguishers will bear both the UL and Coast Guard label markings.



CARBON DIOXIDE
EXTINGUISHER



HALON DRY
EXTINGUISHER



CHEMICAL
EXTINGUISHER

All carbon tetrachloride extinguishers and others with toxic vaporizing liquids such as chlorobromomethane are neither approved nor accepted as required fire extinguishers on any motorboats. Remember, the number required by law is only the minimum. Extra extinguishers provide additional safety.

TABLE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS

Boat Length	Without fixed extinguishing system in machinery space	With fixed extinguishing system in machinery space
Less than 26 ft.	1 B-I	None
26 ft. to under 40 ft.	2 B-I or 1 B-II	1 B-I
40 ft. to 65 ft.	3 B-I or 1 B-II and 1 B-I	2 B-I or 1 B-II

TABLE B FIRE EXTINGUISHER CHARACTERISTICS

UL Listed extinguishers of the type and weight shown below may be selected to meet the type and size requirements for the corresponding Coast Guard classification (see Table A). For example, if a Coast Guard Type B, Size II extinguisher is required, a 10 lb. dry chemical extinguisher would be one of the equivalents. The following specifies only the minimum net agent weight. A larger extinguisher would be acceptable.

Coast Guard Class	UL-Listed Equivalent	Dry Chemical lb.	Carbon Dioxide lb.	Halon 1211/130 lb.
B-I	5-	2		2½
B-II	B:C 0- B:C	10	4 15	10