

Extinguisher Recycling Unit

Leading the way in product recycling

Protecting your world

A responsible approach

Every business has a legal responsibility to protect its people, buildings and assets from the hazards of fire. Part of this responsibility means ensuring that all firefighting equipment including extinguishers are maintained and serviced properly by a competent person. But as with any pressurized container, a fire extinguisher needs to be treated with respect, and can become dangerous if mistreated or abused, or indeed simply after it has come to the end of its useful working life.

What happens when a fire extinguisher is 'condemned' and no longer safe to use?

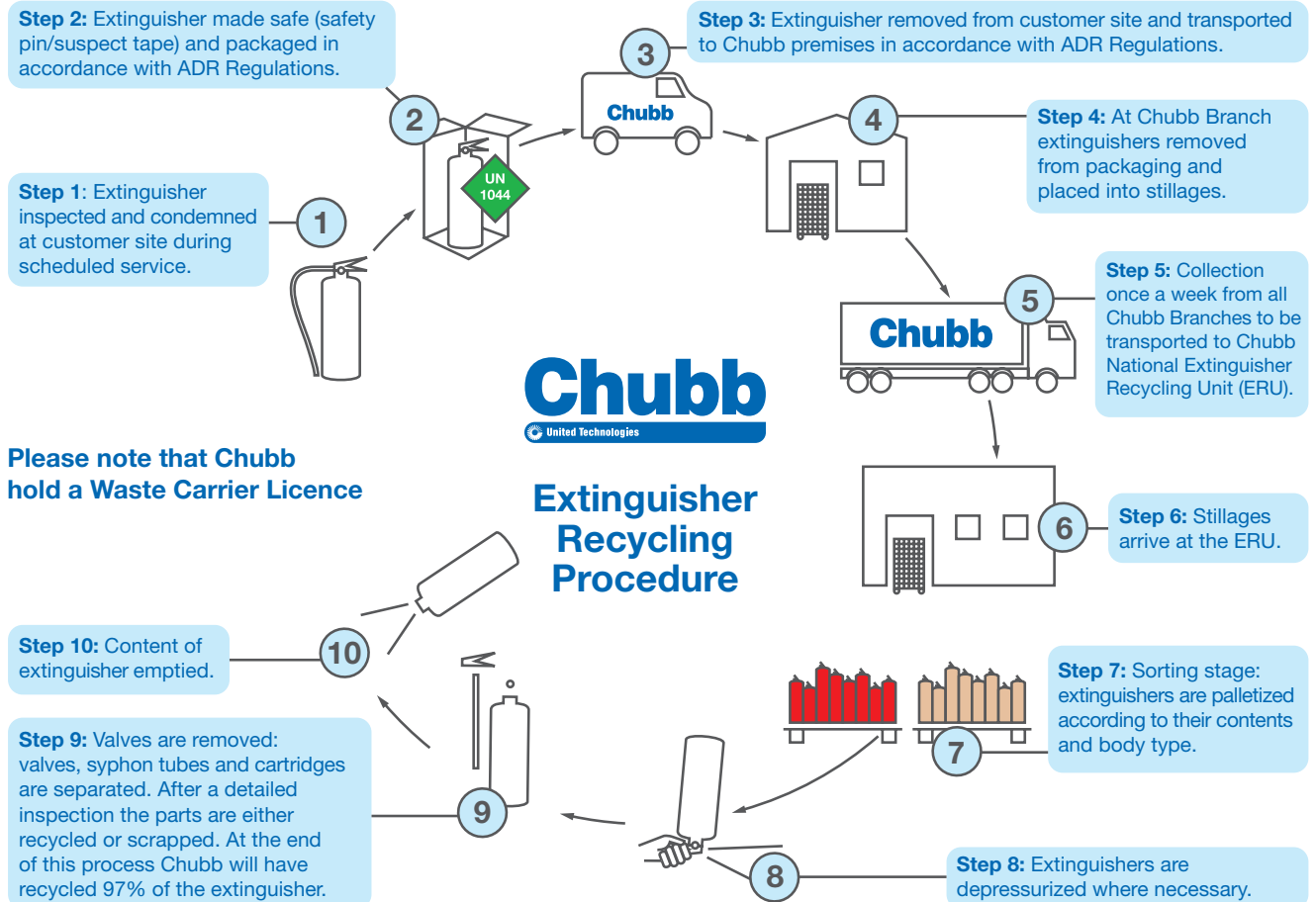
As a business you have a Legal Duty of Care to dispose of waste legitimately and safely via a licensed waste carrier. Failure to do so can result in prosecution, even if you have outsourced the disposal to a third party.

Chubb offers for a fixed charge a safe and legitimate service for collection and disposal of condemned extinguishers, so you can have total peace of mind.

A dedicated facility

Chubb's Extinguisher Recycling Unit (ERU) is a dedicated facility offering a service for the safe processing and recycling/disposal of fire extinguishers across the UK. Chubb has worked closely with the Environment Agency to develop safe, efficient and environmentally friendly processes, ensuring that our site maintains its ISO14001 certification.

How does it work



Please note that Chubb hold a Waste Carrier Licence

Q&A

Q. What does it mean if an extinguisher is 'condemned'?

A. under BS 5306-3 an extinguisher is 'condemned' if it has a major defect which makes it either unsafe for use, or unfit for service, and which cannot be rectified by maintenance.

Unsafe for use means:

- Where there is a very real risk of the container being liable to a sudden uncontrolled release of pressure or ejection of parts. This could be caused by corrosion, wear or damage to threads of any pressure-retaining part; corrosion of welds; extensive general corrosion or pitting; significant dents or gouges in the body; or fire damage to the body or body fittings.
- Where the early signs of damage or corrosion are likely to become worse. This could be caused by any split in an internal protective plastics lining; lifting from the metal of a plastics lining; or corrosion of the body under a plastics, zinc or tin/lead lining.

The standard is clear that these are not the only possible defects, others may, in the judgment of a competent, trained and experienced person, also warrant condemning.

Q. Will I be able to detect all of these defects myself?

A. No. Some defects might not be visible to the untrained eye, so it is always better to call in the experts.

Q. Is using Chubb my only option?

A. No, you can choose an alternative supplier, but you have to ensure that your supplier:

- is licensed to carry controlled waste
- is competent to handle pressurised cylinders

Q. I rent my extinguishers from Chubb, will I be charged for this service?

A. No, as the rental fee you are paying encompass the cost of collection and disposal of extinguishers.



Q. Surely, you can sell the scrap metal?

A. Yes. Some of the materials have a scrap value and any benefits from selling these materials have been incorporated to subsidise the cost of this process.

Below are some examples of condemned extinguishers:



Dented body

Cracked body

Corroded body

Why do you charge for this?

A. Previously the cost of the removal and disposal of condemned fire extinguishers had been borne by the servicing company, but changes in the law requires a new approach to achieve compliance, and the resultant increase in costs, means this is no longer possible.

	Groundwater Regulations 2009 No 2902	Landfill Regulations	
Impact on the collection and disposal of extinguisher	Foam/water with additives CANNOT be discharged to anything other than a foul sewer and then ONLY if the site you are discharging at has a "Consent to discharge" from the water authority.	Liquid waste.	Powder waste.
		Liquid waste of any type is banned from landfill disposal.	Most local authorities will not accept powder waste at nonhazardous landfill sites. This could mean significantly higher disposal charges at specialist/hazardous waste disposal facilities.
Chubb Answer	Chubb work with a local Environmental Contractor and the waste foam is used with other waste components to produce a non hazardous component that can be used again without the need to be discharge to sewerage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle the powder in partnership with a specialist company. • Process approved by the Environment Agency. 	

For more information on these regulations please visit www.netregs.gov.uk



Call **0800 32 1666**

www.chubb.co.uk