

# Case Studies

## Five Ticks of Approval

### - Fire Protection Equipment



Imagine yourself facing a fire in the picture below, at very close range, and having to control and put it out in the shortest possible timeframe, so that the damage to life and property is contained to the minimum! At this point you would not want to be plagued with doubts about the capability of your fire protection equipment. You would want nothing but the best possible defence to do the job.



Decisions about choosing particular pieces of equipment are being made every day by the purchasers of both large and small scale fire protection products. Typically, the decision is based on a number of factors, such as price, size, fire rating, etc. Perhaps too frequently the issue of price is the determining factor, whereas real safety factors, such as size, rating and reliability of the supplier ought to be given more weight.

“It is important to understand that the size and the rating of the fire extinguisher provide the most comprehensive way to evaluate the suitability of the fire protection equipment for the particular area and likely fire hazards and other requirements”, explains John Webster, Technical Manager at SAI Global Product Certification. “In extinguishing a fire, the key is to remove the vapour, which burns, out of the air, and get the fire out. While the vapour is being removed, particularly by a powder extinguisher, there is an instant when the fire becomes hotter and burns more efficiently. It is for that instant, where you face the highest risk, that you need to know that your

equipment will perform and extinguish the fire, rather than allow the fire to overcome you.”

To help you with your purchasing choices in this area, look for the Five Ticks StandardsMark – a reliable indication that the product and its relevant production processes have been independently tested and certified as complying with rigorous benchmarks. SAI Global has been in the product certification business, including fire protection equipment, for decades. The famous Five Ticks Product Certification StandardsMark is a sign of compliance that all industry stakeholders know and respect.

### Why do the Five Ticks Stand Out?

“SAI Global’s product certification programs are tried and trusted. The Five Ticks StandardsMark is an indicator of the unrelenting integrity of the program that includes technical assessments of the products and process reviews of the manufacturer. As our customers testify”, explains Mr. Webster, “if we find any issues that may indicate a non-conformity, we record the nature and extent of the evident deficiency, we categorise it with a risk rating, we require the manufacturer to commit to an appropriate action plan, and we follow up until the matter has been fully resolved.”



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Rod Becus, Director of Firex, talks about quality: "Firex has always had the strategic approach of focusing on the quality of our products and StandardsMark product certification has been something we have maintained since the 1980's. We have never regretted this approach and it has stood the test of time for us over the years."

"Our customers know that when they buy Firex fire protection items they comply with the relevant product standards – they know this in a split second when they see the Five Ticks StandardsMark. We choose to maintain quality in all areas including using high quality stainless steel handles, forged brass valves, special UV resistant paint, etc. for our products."

"One of the other key benefits our customers gain from Firex is that we focus solely on the sale of the products enabling our customers to add value via servicing the fire protection equipment market. We want our Distributors and their customers to make the right choice and help them manage their fire safety issues and hazards by choosing the Five Ticks StandardsMark products that we offer", continues Mr. Becus.



The Australian Standards are specifically developed with a view to ensuring effective product performance in a wide variety of hazardous situations, by a range of experts representing the broadest range of stakeholders, including, importantly, from the fire protection industry.

The critical issue in the area of fire protection is that quite often you may only have one, brief chance. If your fire protection gear fails just this one time, then you may be looking at disastrous consequences, including thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in losses or damages, or worse, personal injury or the loss of life.

Who will confront the next fire? Have you provided them with the equipment that you know and trust to do the job efficiently and safely?



## Some Key Fire Protection Standards

Choosing fire protection equipment that carries the StandardsMark product certification trade mark can be vital to consumers and fire fighting professionals alike.

For optimum confidence in the fire protection equipment that you have in your home, apartment or office building, check for the StandardsMark referable to the following Australian Standards:

- AS/NZS 3504 fire blankets
- AS/NZS 1841 portable fire extinguishers
- AS 4265 wheeled fire extinguishers
- AS 1603 automatic fire detectors
- AS/NZS 1221 fire hose reels
- AS 2419 fire hydrants
- AS 2792 fire hoses
- AS 3786 smoke alarms (being replaced by AS 12239).

