Top 5 factors to consider when choosing the right portable fire extinguisher

When fire breaks out, the impact – on people, property and profitability – can be significant. How can you tell if a portable fire extinguisher is up to the challenge?

Here are five important considerations:

1. **Development**

   Fire extinguishers should be developed to meet the specific requirements of multiple industries:
   - High risk industrial applications to areas with a large population and high foot traffic
   - Evolving technologies that see continuous development in areas such as water and water mist extinguishing solutions

2. **Design**

   Safety starts with a smart design. Accessibility, flexibility and ease-of-use are crucial for maximizing success when using a portable fire extinguisher. Look for these key design aspects to ensure you choose the best firefighting solution:
   - Ergonomic 45 degree angle carrying handles for easier transportation
   - Extended hose for greater flexibility
   - Nozzle tips designed for more precise agent delivery
   - Easy maintenance and servicing
   - Coloured labels for easy product identification

3. **Production**

   A great design is nothing without a high-quality production process.
   - **Portable extinguishers should be**:
     - Manufactured in locations that allow for complete visibility of the production process
     - Assembled by highly skilled production technicians and engineers
     - Certified and approved by third party agencies*
   - **Products developed, designed and produced in Germany demonstrate the pinnacle of engineering excellence.**

4. **Quality assurance**

   To achieve compliance with all major standards and regulations, manufacturers should undergo rigorous quality assurance measures such as:
   - Quality control and inspection on incoming goods
   - Modern welding technology, pressure testing and internal coating inspection on all container manufacturing
   - Burst and crush testing to latest industry standards

5. **Customer service**

   A commitment to quality shouldn’t end at the factory gate. Extinguisher manufacturers should offer:
   - Regional sales representatives and local support for dealers and distributors
   - Competent and qualified internal technical support
   - Training for new products or refresher training for existing products
   - A comprehensive portfolio of Fire Protection solutions

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