



TYSERS
UK DIVISION

Tyser & Co Limited

International Insurance & Risk Management Solutions

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New Fire Regulations from 1st October 2006

As from the 1st October 2006 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order comes into effect, applying to all non-domestic premises in England and Wales and abolishing the previous system of fire certificates.

This new legislation introduces the concept of fire risk assessments and requires all businesses to have a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment carried out by a responsible person, typically the employer or a designated competent employee but which could also be an external qualified consultant or organisation. Businesses will need to decide if they have the necessary competency, knowledge and experience to carry out the fire risk assessment in-house and whether training is needed or whether external assistance will be required.

The Main Changes

1. Fire Certificates cease to have any legal status.
2. Responsibility for compliance rests with the "responsible person", usually the employer, or owner or occupier of the premises.
3. If there is more than one responsible person, all must take reasonable steps to work together.
4. The responsible person must carry out an assessment focussed on fire safety

with particular attention to special risk such as disabled and special needs persons and must include consideration of any hazardous substances on the premises. (e.g. oils, solvents and all highly inflammable materials).

5. The assessment is intended to identify risks that can be removed or reduced and establish the general nature of the fire precautions needed to protect people against the fire risks that remain.
6. If a business employs five or more people the findings of the assessment must be kept and recorded.

Enforcement

Responsibility for enforcement of the new rules will be with your local Fire & Rescue Authority and regular inspections are expected.

In a similar way to health and safety legislation, if not properly implemented Directors and Owners of a business could face criminal charges in the event of the death or injury of an employee.

What Needs To Be In The Assessment

Eleven types of guide for various types of premises are available on the Government website

www.firesafetyguides.odpm.gov.uk.

We suggest that the British Standard PAS 79:2005 Form (Fire Risk Assessment – Guidance and Methodology) offers a suitable template for your Fire Risk Assessment Report. Details can be found upon www.bsi-global.com/Fire/Detection/pas79.xalter.



Am I Competent?

If you want to carry out your fire risk assessments in-house, there is no reason not to provided, you make the right choice of person to complete the risk assessment.

There is no single prescriptive route to achieve competency and it will arise from a mix of education, training and experience. Most skills needed are practical ones that can be learned on the job, but some training is recommended and interactive online training, typically taking only 15 – 20 minutes is available from a large range of health and safety firms. Simply type "Fire Risk Assessment" into Google and a wide selection of fire assessment assistance and training services are on offer.

Where your Insurers provide Health and Safety support services as part of your insurance "package", they also will be typically offering fire risk assessment training services. Please consult your usual contact at Tysers if you are not sure if your particular Insurer offers this service.

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