

Strategic Fire Management – Proactive rather than reactive?

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Pre-Procurement questions

Are you clear where the organisation currently is with regard to compliance with the Fire Safety Order?

- Are all assessments that are required currently in place?
- If not, why not?
- Are you clear on any priorities?
- Are you working to a timescale, and if so, is it realistic?



Pre-Procurement questions

What do you want the process to achieve?

- Basic compliance with all FRAs in place?
- Do you know what to do with the information it will provide?
- Will the organisation handle and distribute the information effectively?
- Can the organisation provide the information required of them?



Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

- Introduced the concept of the Responsible Person
- Significant findings deliberately not defined
- Fire risk assessment the duty of the Responsible Person not intended to be a “Consultant’s Charter”
- Risk assessment process intended to inform the Responsible Person to the risks they pose and the controls they need to apply.
- The management of outcomes is the key factor

Fire Risk Assessment

- Zero risk does not exist
- Not all significant findings have a quick fix
- Fire risk assessment involves more than one individual
- Self compliance **MUST** inform future strategy
- Management protocols and structure has to have a strategic impact on the organisation.
- The process **MUST INFORM THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON** to risk trends and what is required to mitigate residual risk
- **NOT** a condition survey but **MUST MITIGATE OCCUPANCY RISK**

Strategic response to outcomes

Fire safety arrangements

11.—(1) The responsible person must make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate, having regard to the size of his undertaking and the nature of its activities, for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures.

- Duty to respond appropriately to risk
- Effective planning includes informing future strategy
- Guidance produced cannot cover all instances
- Roles and structure must be clear for effective communication

Strategic response to outcomes

Principles of prevention to be applied

10. Where the responsible person implements any preventive and protective measures he must do so on the basis of the principles specified in Part 3 of Schedule 1.

- Compliance with Article 10 requires a strategic response.
- Structure must facilitate effective communication.
- Management of outcomes should inform future.

PART 3

Article 10

PRINCIPLES OF PREVENTION

The principles are—

- (a) avoiding risks;
- (b) evaluating the risks which cannot be avoided;
- (c) combating the risks at source;
- (d) adapting to technical progress;
- (e) replacing the dangerous by the non-dangerous or less dangerous;
- (f) developing a coherent overall prevention policy which covers technology, organisation of work and the influence of factors relating to the working environment;
- (g) giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures; and
- (h) giving appropriate instructions to employees.

Strategic response to outcomes

- The most important aspect of risk assessment is the management of significant findings
- Must be viewed as the starting point and **NOT** the finish point
- Senior management involvement is critical as they are the Responsible Person
- Record keeping, audit trails and effective communication is key
- Enforcers will look for evidence of continuing improvements
- Organisations need skilled, competent persons for implementation
- Response must be proactive not reactive

Summary

- Fire Safety Order intended to change from reactive to proactive compliance
- Risk assessment is the starting point, not the end point
- Management of outcomes must be demonstrated
- Zero risk does not exist
- Senior management must be involved as they are Responsible Persons
- Assessment not a condition survey
- Record of occupancy risk needs improvement