2. Fire Safety Risk Assessment

Responsible persons for the premises must instigate a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk from fire to relevant persons by a competent person. Where responsible person employs 5 or more persons or the premises are licensed then both the significant the significant findings of the assessment and the identity of persons considered to be especially at risk from fire must be recorded. Where the recording of the assessment is not required it should still be considered as best practice.

Guidance on identifying a competent person to carry out the risk assessment is available at the following link.

A guide to choosing a competent fire risk assessor

If, having looked at this guidance you decide to undertake the assessment yourself then there are several guides available to help you do this. It is important that you use the correct guidance and an appropriate template to help you undertake the assessment. Most of the guidance documents discussed in section 3 contains guidance and a simple template. There are several free templates available on the open internet which can be found through search engines. One of the most common methodologies used in the industry is PAS 7. It is a Publicly Available Specification. Although not a British Standards Institution, BSI.

Other methodologies may be more appropriate in particular circumstances. You should always use the most suitable template but also one which you are comfortable using. In consideration of the appropriate guidance the goal is to ensure you have the appropriate tools to guide you in undertaking a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk of fire in your premises. This should be in consideration of the size and nature of your undertakings.

Guidance on fire risk assessments and a template are available at the following links:

Additional information for completing a fire risk assessment in appendices

- A guide to fire risk assessment
- Fire risk assessment template





The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Guidance on Completion of the Cumbria Fire & Rescue Fire Risk Assessment form

THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

The aim of the order was to consolidate previous multiple overlapping fire safety regimes into a coherent risk based process that would rationalise fire safety legislation. Historically legislation introduced after specific serious fatality fires resulted in confusing and fragmented statutes, with lack of clarity for those expected to comply and enforcing authorities. The purpose of the Order is to safeguard relevant people in case of fire. The Order places a statutory duty on the employer to carry out a risk assessment and to take appropriate fire precautions where necessary to safeguard relevant people from fire.

In addition, every person other than an employer (eg. a landlord), who has any control of a workplace consisting (or forming part) of a premises must ensure that, the workplace complies with any applicable requirement of Part 2 and Schedule 1of the Order.

The following attached guidance is designed to assist you in completing the enclosed fire risk assessment form and meeting your responsibilities under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. It is not designed to be a definitive guide and you are under no obligation to use it. To assist you further it is recommended that you purchase the appropriate guidance book listed below.

These guides have been produced to aid the responsible person undertaking the fire risk assessment, giving what can be complex information in a simple and effective way. Before commencing a fire risk assessment of your premises it is both advisable and good practice to fully read Part 1 of the guide appropriate to the property under assessment.

Guides in the series:

Office and Shops	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 815 0
Factories and Warehouses	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 816 7
Sleeping Accommodation	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 817 4
Residential Care Premises	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 818 1
Educational Premises	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 819 8
Small and Medium Places of Assembly	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 820 4
Large Places of Assembly	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 821 1
Theatres, Cinemas and similar Premises	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 822 8
Open air Events and Venues	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 823 5
Health Care Premises	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 824 2
Transport Premises	ISBN-13:978 1 85112 825 9
Animal Premises and Stables	ISBN-13;978 1 85112 884 6

Means of Escape For Disabled people

ISBN-13;978 1 85112 873 7

(To be read in conjunction with the above guides)

These guides are available from

Communities and Local Government Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire. LS23 7NB

Or any good bookshop (priced at £12 each at time of writing) they are also available free to download on the CLG website www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk

The attached Fire Risk Assessment questionnaire will, by using a series of questions and directions, point you towards the areas you should address and the type of information that should be recorded. Assistance may be requested from and given by a Fire and Rescue Authority Inspecting Officer but it is not the duty of the Fire and Rescue Authority to complete the fire risk assessment for you and they will most likely decline if asked.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue are responsible for the enforcement of the Order but only within the county of Cumbria. The Fire Service's role is to carry out an audit of both the risk assessment and the measures taken by the employers to safeguard relevant people from the risk of fire. This may highlight the need for additional fire precautions to be provided, in order to comply with the Order.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 came into force on 1st October 2006. The Order provides for the implementation of minimum fire safety standards in the workplace.

With the exception of the places to which the Order does not apply, (see 'Excepted Premises'), all employers must undertake a fire risk assessment. Where there are five or more employees, the significant findings of the assessment must be recorded, and will give consideration to the following:

- 1. The risk of fire in the workplace, including potential sources of ignition and the location of combustibles. Identify areas where employees/visitors etc may be at more serious risk.
- 2. Whether fire can be detected in a reasonable time and that people can be warned.
- 3. Whether people can escape to a place of safety in the event of fire.
- 4. Whether suitable fire fighting equipment is provided.
- 5. Whether the fire safety measures you have implemented are adequate and being effectively maintained and that the fire risk assessment has been reviewed where necessary and appropriate.

If, having completed a fire risk assessment, following the process given in the DCLG guides or other relevant publications and you remain unsure as to whether the measures you have taken are appropriate or adequate, you should contact your local fire safety officer for further advice or alternatively enlist the help of a fire safety professional.

EXCEPTED PREMISES

- a) Domestic premises (other than the common areas of houses in multiple occupation).
- b) Offshore Installations within the meaning of regulation 3 of the Offshore Installation and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995.
- c) A ship, in respect of the normal ship-board activities of a ship's crew which are carried out solely by the crew under the direction of the master. (permanently moored floating restaurants and such like are not excepted premises)
- d) Fields, woods or other land forming part of an agricultural or forestry undertaking but which is not inside a building and is situated away from the undertakings main buildings.
- e) An aircraft, locomotive or rolling stock, trailer or semi-trailer used as means of transport.
- f) A mine, other than any building on the surface of the mine.
- g) A borehole site to which the Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations 1995 apply

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

The attached Fire Risk Assessment Questionnaire, will by using a series of questions and directions, point you towards the areas you should address and the type of information that should be recorded. Assistance may be requested from and given be a Fire and Rescue Authority Inspecting Officer but it is not the duty of the Fire and Rescue Authority to complete the risk assessment for you.

You may if you so wish appoint a competent person to assist in completing the Fire Risk Assessment for you. A person would be regarded as competent where he or she has sufficient training and experience or knowledge and other qualities to enable him or her properly to assist in undertaking the preventive and protective measures needed to comply with the requirements of the Order. Following the completion of the Fire Risk Assessment you should record any significant findings and the measures that have been taken to address these findings within the premises.

Significant Findings – The important thing you need to decide is whether the hazard from fire is important enough to be a source of serious potential harm or in given situations may cause loss, death, injury or damage.

Consider how likely it is that each hazard could cause harm. This will determine whether or not you need to do more to reduce the risk. Even after all precautions have been taken some risk usually remains. What you have to decide for each significant hazard is whether this remaining risk requires 'Control Measures'.

Control Measures – These are actions taken to eliminate or minimise adverse risks. They may exist in the form of Policies, Standards, Procedures, Equipment, Training or Physical changes.

Risk Assessment – The process of identifying hazards and determining the risks they pose, to decide what control measures are appropriate.

General information

The first section of the form asks for details of the premises, the person assessing and some additional information that the Fire and Rescue Service will want to know when they visit to audit your premises, there will be other information that they will request such as the registered address of the company and owners where that is applicable so it would be useful to keep this information with your fire risk assessment. The following notes aim to help you complete this section.

Description of Occupants – The information required is whether the predominant type of occupant is more or less vulnerable than the type of person most commonly found in the type of premises being assessed. For example:

In a residential care home you would expect a normal mix of ambulant and nonambulant elderly residents who would be of "average mobility for this type of occupancy". However if the majority of residents were bedridden, the occupants would be "Un-typically vulnerable". In an ordinary school you would expect a normal mix of ambulant and non-ambulant children. However if it was a school for the blind the occupants could be considered "Un-typically vulnerable". If it was a school for gymnasts the occupants could be considered "Atypically mobile".

Sole supplier – If the building being assessed is a commercial or public sector building which provides a high value or unique service, it should be identified in this section. Examples include manufacture of specific items in the UK or perhaps the treatment of a particular disease available only at certain hospitals.

Exceptional value – Properties with a value of close to or exceeding £100,000,000 should be included in this section. This approximates to the rebuilding and restocking of a large shopping precinct.

Heritage Risk – Details should be provided in this section if the building being assessed is of national or international significance. There are no hard and fast rules but if the building is listed on the National Monuments Record it could be considered a heritage risk. The National Monuments Records is maintained by English Heritage and can be viewed on their website (www.english-heritage.org.uk).

Community Loss – This question aims to identify buildings, which if involved fire could result in significant consequential loss to the local community. The building may be occupied by a large employer, if the business was unable to operate or even close many people would be affected (unemployed).

To qualify, the loss of the building/business must represent more than an inconvenience, the number of persons affected (unemployed) should be at least 100. Consideration should be given to the likelihood of people being able to find alternative employment in the area. The destruction of a local school will be disruptive but alternative arrangements to educate pupils can normally be put in place quite quickly and therefore would not normally be considered as community loss.

Property loss – The potential for loss from an uncontrolled fire in the building and the potential loss should the fire spread to surrounding buildings, assuming no fire fighting intervention of any kind.

e.g. The potential for an uncontrolled fire in a heavily built up urban area spreading beyond the building of origin to the surrounding buildings or streets.

1 Sources of fuel

This is a straight forward process of hazard spotting within the premises. Walk around your premises and make a note of any flammable substances or combustible materials that could provide fuel or fire, or contribute to the spread of fire within the premises.

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 1 and Part 2 section 1 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 1.1, 1.3 & 1.5

Anything that burns is fuel for a fire. So you need to look for things that will burn reasonably easily and are in sufficient quantities to provide fuel for a fire or cause it to spread to another fuel source. Some of the most common 'fuels' found in premises are:

- Flammable products such as cleaning and decorating products, petrol, white spirit, methylated spirit, cooking oil, disposable cigarette lighters and photocopier chemicals.
- Laundry supplies such as bedding and towels, medical supplies such as disposable aprons.
- Paper, wood, foam (used in furniture).
- Flammable gases such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), including aerosol canisters.
- Textiles and soft furnishings such as spare clothes and hanging curtains.

You will need to consider the various ways to reduce the risks caused by materials and substances which burn. The control measures will include:

- Removing completely or reducing to a minimum all flammable materials.
- Ensuring all flammable materials/liquids are handled/stored correctly.
- Ensuring adequate separation distances between flammable materials.
- Keeping a minimum quantity of flammable substances/liquids/materials in the premises.

Question 1.7

This requires you to look into the amount of combustible waste allowed to accumulate in the premises such as wood and off cuts, finely divided items such as shredded paper, dust or old newspapers, magazines and books which could contribute to the risk of fire.

Ensure all waste products are removed and disposed of safely and maintain good housekeeping at all times. Ensure that staff are aware of the standard of housekeeping required.

Question 1.9

Is asked because polyurethane foam filled furniture is a known fire hazard. You should be able to find out about your furniture by physically checking it for labels signifying that it is fire resistant or by contacting the suppliers to check on the specification.

Question 1.11

Asks you to consider the construction of your workplace and how this might contribute to the spread of fire. Does the internal construction include large areas of:

- Hardboard, chipboard, MDF, block board or strawboard in its walls or ceilings?
- Synthetic ceiling or wall coverings such as polystyrene tiles or carpet?

If these are present and you are uncertain of the danger they might pose, you should seek advice from your local Fire and Rescue Authority or other experts on what precautions you need to take to reduce the risk to people in the event of fire.

Question 1.13

Asks you to look at the amount of artificial plants and foliage or seasonal decorations within the premises, in particularly if there are significant quantities in escape routes that would contribute to the spread of fire.

Question 1.15

Directs you to the possible hazard from oxygen and how you can reduce the potential source of oxygen supply to fire by:

- Closing all doors, windows and other openings not required for ventilation, particularly out of working hours.
- Not storing oxidising materials near or with any heat or flammable source.
- Seeking advice from the supplier or manufacturer on correct storage and use of oxygen in cylinders.

Significant Findings – Once you have completed this section you will need to record any of the significant 'hazards' and the 'Control Measures' provided to reduce the risk.

2 Ignition sources

This section asks you to identify the potential ignition sources in your premises by looking for possible sources of heat, which could get hot enough to ignite flammable material in the premises. These sources of heat could include:

Smoker's materials	Portable heaters	Other hot surfaces
Faulty/misused electrical equipment	Naked Flames	
Cooking	Arson	

Indication of near misses, such as scorch marks on furniture of fittings, discoloured or charred electrical plugs and sockets or cigarette burns can help you identify hazards that you may not otherwise notice.

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 1 and Part 2 section 1 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 2.1

You may not have 'hot work' processes in your workplace as a general rule, (welding, flame cutting, use of blow lamps etc.), but they may be introduced on a temporary basis by a contractor or an employee. You must ensure that anyone who uses naked flames or heat producing equipment is trained as to the hazards that are created, and

the safety precautions that need to be taken. The proven method for controlling 'hot work' processes (especially temporary ones), is by use of a permit to work system. This is a formalised system which will help to ensure that employees and contractors work safely. The permit should ensure actions similar to the ones listed below are taken.

- Remove combustible materials from the immediate work area.
- Cover/sheet up combustibles that cannot be removed with a fire retardant cover.
- Have a suitable fire extinguisher to hand and know how to use it.
- Know where the nearest fire alarm call point is.
- Know what action to take in the event of fire.
- Consider what effect the 'hot work' will have on any automatic system such as smoke detectors. If necessary detectors may need to be isolated whilst this work is done. You may then have to consider if any additional safety measures need to be taken and the system must be re-instated as soon as possible once the work is completed.
- Checking the work area for any smouldering fires after completion of the work and before the site is left.

Question 2.3

Where any purpose built incinerating or cooking equipment is in place it must be used and serviced in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Records should be kept of any servicing and maintenance completed and any necessary safety notices must be provided. Associated ducting should also be subject of regular testing and maintenance.

Question 2.5

You are asked to identify the number and type of heaters provided and whether any of them can be replaced with a less hazardous type or design. When considering their suitability you must consider the design and the location that it will be used.

Question 2.7

Asks you to identify your smoking policy and any control measures you have implemented to support this.

Question 2.9

Directs you to the possible hazard of combustible materials stacked near light fittings emitting enough heat for ignition to occur.

Question 2.11 & 2.13

Is asked because of the frequency that electrical equipment is attributed to the cause of accidental fires in buildings. Inspection of equipment is required to ensure that:

• It is installed and maintained by a competent person.

- It is visually inspected and undergoes portable appliance testing where appropriate.
- Sockets and extension cables are not overloaded.

Question 2.15

Asks you to consider the potential problem of arson. This is a very important aspect and one that should not be underestimated as it is not only a major cause of fires but frequently a problem when the premises are unoccupied. Information on reducing the risk of arson can be found on <u>www.arsonpreventionbureau.org.uk</u>

Significant Findings – Once you have completed this section you will need to record any of the significant 'hazards' and the 'Control Measures' provided to reduce the risk.

3 Identifying people at risk

If there is a fire the main priority is to ensure that everyone reaches a place of safety quickly. Putting the fire out is secondary to this because the greatest danger from fire in premises is the spread of fire, heat and smoke through it. If a premises does not have adequate means of detecting and giving warning of fire or means of escape, a fire can trap people or they may be overcome by the heat and smoke preventing them from evacuating.

As part of your assessment you need to identify who may be at risk if there is a fire both within your premises and externally, regardless of whether they are staff, guests, public, contractors or to the extent that the fire would have an effect, passers by, other people who share your premises and neighbouring premises. You will need to identify how they will be warned and how they will escape. To do this you need to identify where people resort to within your premises, whether those places are normally occupied or isolated areas only accessed occasionally and to what extent a fire in your premises would affect passers by, other people who share your premises and neighbouring premises.

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 2, Part 1 Section 3.4.3 and Part 2 Section 1.13 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 3.1

Asks you to consider whether anybody is at increased risk from fire? Do employees work in remote areas? Does anyone work alone? Does anybody sleep on the premises?

Question 3.3

Asks you to consider the type and number of people that might be present in your premises, how they might be affected by fire and their ability to escape from fire.

Question 3.5

Whilst the Fire Service will clearly assist with the evacuation of people from a building on fire, you should understand that it is your responsibility to ensure that anyone resorting to your premises can safely escape should a fire or other emergency occur and you must therefore ensure necessary arrangements are in place. This question asks you to consider people with disabilities. Disabilities may be permanent or temporary, obvious or less obvious. You will need to assess each individual case on its own merits if the person with the disability is an employee. If however your workplace is open to the public then you must plan for the possibility of disabled persons being present, and in either case your emergency plan should cater for this eventuality.

When considering means of escape, disabilities can be in many forms for example:

- Wheelchair users.
- People on crutches / walking sticks / walking aids.
- Bedridden.
- Blind or vision impaired.
- Deaf or hearing impaired.
- Colour blindness so cannot read safety signs.
- Leaning difficulties or mental illness.

Of course anyone who is slower to react or evacuate than anyone else may need assistance for example:

- Children.
- Heavily pregnant women.
- Elderly.
- Affected by alcohol

Question 3.7 & 3.9

Requires you to look at your escape route and decide whether visitors and contractors will be unlikely to have knowledge of alternate escape routes or escape routes are complex and people could get lost.

Significant Findings – Once you have completed this section you will need to record any of the significant 'findings' and the 'Control Measures' provided to reduce the risk.

4 Means of escape from fire

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 3 Section 3.4.3 and Part 2 section 4 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 4.1

The size of the building and the nature of its occupants will dictate the time taken to evacuate a building. In all cases the time needed to escape to a place of safety must be less than the length of time it would take from a fire starting to the means of escape being unsafe to use.

Question 4.3

As a general rule the premises should be provided with more than one means of escape to allow people to turn their backs on the fire and walk away. In circumstances where there is only a single means of escape, exit routes and stairways should be provided with fire resisting walls and doors to contain the fire and allow people to exit safely.

Question 4.5

Ideally all escape route doors would open in the direction of escape so that people are not slowed down by having to stop and open the door towards them. However this is not always practical or necessary. As a general rule the door must open in the direction of escape in the following circumstances:

- Where the door will be used by more than 60 people.
- Where the door provides escape from a high risk area.

Question 4.7

Employees should be able to open doors quickly and easily without the use of a key and they should not have to undo more than one security device. If the doors are required to be secured but used by significant numbers or people unfamiliar with the premises, such as the public, the use of push bars, push pads or similar opening devices is recommended. All employees or regular building users in the case of community buildings, need to be trained on how to operate any security device and operating signs may be needed to ensure understanding of this. When conducting this part of the assessment, look critically at any electronic locking system and ensure that it de-energises and is operable on actuation of the fire alarm or failure of the power supply. Also look carefully at the use of mechanical number locks within the workplace. It should be obvious that you would not want to be confronted by a numerical locking system and have to remember the number to be able to escape from a fire.

Question 4.9 & 4.11

To do its job a fire resisting door needs to be undamaged, have no holes left due to removal of locks and fittings, close fully into its frame and latch fully without requiring force. The majority of fire resisting doors are fitted with self closing devices and are labelled 'Fire Door Keep Shut'. Ensure that the self-closing device can do its job properly, when the door is fully open it must not stick or jam and when the door closes, the closer must shut the door fully, override any latching mechanism and not be able to be pushed open without operating the latch. Some doors across corridors

are there to limit the spread of smoke, whilst these will have closing devices fitted there will probably be no latching mechanism it is important that when they close the leaves meet and where the doors are rebated they close in the right order. Where smoke seals (look similar to draught strips around the side and top of the door) are fitted to fire doors they must make contact with the frame or other door otherwise they will not function effectively. Due to their location some doors become a nuisance to employees, so they tend to get wedged open. This practice is dangerous as it could allow the escape route to fill with smoke and render it un-useable or fire to spread rapidly. Fire doors can however provided that certain other measures are installed be held open by an approved automatic door release mechanism.

Question 4.13

Other than the normal way in and out of a building, all exit routes and exit doors should be signed. It may even be necessary to sign the normal route in and out if for example people enter via different routes, the building is accessed freely by the public or other unaccompanied guests or visitors who are unfamiliar with the exit routes. All signs should be sited properly so that they can be seen, are large enough to be read from a reasonable distance and should contain pictograms. It could be of benefit to get a good sign manufacturers catalogue as this will show you what is available and also give you the sizes required dependant upon the viewing distance.

Question 4.15

It is of little value providing escape routes if people cannot see to use them. You need to establish, should a fire cause the normal lighting system to fail, whether people would still be able to see adequately to safely use the escape routes. You need to check the escape route with the lights off and if the premises are used during the hours of darkness, whilst it is dark outside. Will there be sufficient borrowed light from other sources e.g. streetlights or unaffected lighting systems. If lighting levels are not sufficient then you may need to consider some form of escape lighting. When making this assessment you must consider the hours that the premises are in use and don't forget it can be dark as early as 15:30 in winter. If you decide to install some form of escape lighting it should operate on failure of the normal lighting system within the premises. Escape lighting may need to illuminate:

- Escape routes clearly along there entire length and externally to a place of safety if street lighting does not illuminate the external escape route.
- Fire alarm call points and fire fighting equipment.
- Specific manufacturing processes may need illuminating to enable them to be closed down safely.

The basic options for escape lighting are:

- Traditional ceiling / wall mounted lighting units.
- Low level floor mounted lighting strips/units.
- Torches (these may be an option in small premises or on rare occasions).

Emergency escape lighting is a technical subject and advice should be sought from a competent person.

Compliance - You will need to record how you have complied with the provision for Emergency Route and Exits of the fire protection measures.

5 Fire fighting and fire detection

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Section 3.4.1 & 2 and Part 2 Section 2 & 3 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 5.1

In deciding if there is sufficient fire fighting equipment in the workplace you need to assess what the minimum provisions should be, then decide if this is sufficient considering the style and layout of your workplace, the fire hazards present, your company fire policy on employee actions and the level of training employees have received.

Fire fighting equipment should be located in conspicuous positions on escape routes, preferably near exit doors. You may also need to site some fire equipment near to specific fire hazards. However if this is done, ensure that employees can still gain access to the fire fighting equipment in the event of fire. You should also consider establishing fire points where various types of fire fighting equipment are sited together.

Question 5.3

Any employees who may need to use fire fighting equipment should be trained in its use and operation. You need to look at your fire policy and the wording on the fire action notices to decide who you need to train. For example if your fire action notices contain the words 'Attack the Fire if safe to do so' you might need to consider training everyone.

Question 5.5

It is vital that a fire can be detected quickly and a warning given so that everyone can escape safely. Fire is usually identified by sight, sound or smell. In unoccupied areas, areas where fire would not be readily identified, complex building layouts, where people may be asleep or unable to warn of the outbreak of a fire such as a nursery with sleeping babies you may need to consider an automatic means of giving warning in case of fire, such as smoke or heat detection.

Question 5.7

If fire fighting equipment is not obviously visible, then its location should be indicated by a sign and if necessary a directional arrow. All signs should incorporate a pictogram.

Question 5.9

It is vitally important that people are familiar with how to operate the alarm system and also how to react on hearing the alarm. To this end regular training for all employees must be completed and recorded. Arrangements should also be put in place so any visitors to the premises are aware of what to do on hearing the alarm or where this cannot be reasonably achieved that employees are trained to assist with the evacuation process.

Fire action notices should be positioned in prominent places around the workplace. The location should be visible and positioned such that employees will read them. It should reflect your company policy as to what you want people to do in the event of a fire. The notice should be worded to reflect the intended actions of anyone who may read it. It may be that different notices are used in public areas to those used in areas where the public have no access.

Compliance - You will need to record how you have complied with the provision for Fire Fighting and Detection of the fire protection measures.

6 **Procedures, arrangements and training**

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 4 and Part 2 Section 7 of the appropriate CLG guide.

You need to look critically at what you want people to do including yourself in the event of a fire and then ensure that everyone is given sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable them to carry out those tasks. This might lead you to a tiered programme of training with differing training needs identified for different groups of people or roles. For example fire marshals will need a higher level of training than employees who have no specific duties in relation to fire. Remember to keep a record of the training given.

All employees should be trained in what to do in the event of fire and you should compile an emergency plan covering what to do in the event of fire and how to control the safety measures that you have highlighted are necessary or have implemented in your premises. One aspect of these measures will be to train employees in the evacuation of the premises and in any task that they need to undertake to maintain safety in the event of fire.

7 Maintenance and testing

Further guidance can be found in Part 2 Sections 2-5 of the appropriate CLG guide.

Question 7.1

Asks you to assess whether there are adequate procedures in place to ensure that the fire protection measures in the premises are properly maintained and that any necessary tests are conducted at the appropriate intervals.

Question 7.3

Physically check that all doors open easily and fully. Also check that the door furniture, especially push bars on double doors, operate effectively and in the way that they were designed to. Take extra care to check doors that are infrequently used, the door may swell up or jam in some other way and prevent people from escaping when needed.

Question 7.5

Check that self closing devices pull doors shut from the fully open position to fully closed, the doors fits securely in their rebate and latch fully. Doors that do not close properly will allow smoke to escape and a fire to grow faster. Ensure that any automatic hold open devices fitted to fire doors designed to release the door on actuation of the fire alarm have not caused the door to warp to such a degree that excessive gaps are created between the door and door frame.

Question 7.7

Ensure that lighting unit covers are clean from nicotine deposits or general dirt and in good condition. Have the monthly, six-monthly, annually and 3 yearly tests been carried out, you may need to employ a competent person to undertake this.

Question 7.9

The fire alarm system should be tested weekly and thereafter at annual (and sometimes quarterly) time periods. You need to check with the supplier or fire alarm contractor at what frequency your system needs inspecting. If automatic fire detection, that is, smoke and heat detectors are installed, ensure that they have also been tested and work effectively.

Question 7.11

Fire fighting equipment should be maintained in line with the manufacturer's recommendations. Annual inspection and where appropriate discharge testing should be undertaken by a competent person.

Question 7.13

Where automatic sprinklers or any other fixed fire fighting systems have been installed they should be tested in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and serviced by a competent person on a regular basis.

Compliance - You will need to record how you have complied with the provision for maintenance and testing of the fire protection measures.

8 Fire safety records

Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Step 4 and Part 2 Section 7 of the appropriate CLG guide.

These questions will give you an indication whether there is a good fire safety culture and a quality safety management structure in place. Solid reliable record keeping will provide valuable resources to assist you in two areas:

- Effectively managing the fire policy at your premises.
- Providing evidence to enforcing authorities or the courts that you have done everything that could be reasonably expected to ensure safety within the premises and to comply with the law.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue service makes every effort to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this document. However, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service and their employees will not be held responsible for any form of loss or misinformation occurring due to the use of or reliance upon the information provided in this document. This document is provided 'as is' and we make no representations or warranties about the accuracy, completeness or suitability for any purpose of the information and images contained within. This document could include technical or other inaccuracies or typographical errors.





The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Employer or other responsible person		
Name of Premises		
Address		
Post Code	Telephone №	
Name of Assessor(s)		
Date of Assessment	Date of Review	

Building

GENERAL INFORMATION

Property Use		
N ^º of floors	N ^⁰ of floors below ground	
Approx area in m ² of footprint of building	Age of building	
Brief details of construction		

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Occupants Enter range A= <20, B= 20 – 49, C=50-99, D=100-1000, E= >1000

	WEEKDAYS		WEEKENDS	
Occupancy Profile: Maximum Number of persons, in the most highly occupied compartment to be effected by an uncontrolled fire within 30 minutes, assuming no evacuation.	0000 to 0400		0000 to 0400	
	0400 to 0800		0400 to 0800	
	0800 to 1200		0800 to 1200	
	1200 to 1600		1200 to 1600	
	1600 to 2000		1600 to 2000	
	2000 to 2400		2000 to 2400	
	Atypically mobile	e for this type of o	ccupancy	
Description of Occupants: Predominant Type Average mobility for this type of occupancy				
	Untypically vulnerable for this type of occupancy			

Potential Loss/Risk

Sole Supplier in UK:	If yes give brief details:			Yes	No
Providing high value or unique service or products:					
Exceptional Value:	If yes give brief details:			Yes	No
Value of rebuild and restock:					
Heritage Risk:	If yes give brief details:			Yes	No
Building of National Importance or international significance.					
Community Loss:	If yes give brief details:			Yes	No
Exceptional value or impact to the community.					
Property Loss: Estimate the extent of			Tick one box below	Estimate within	damage 50m²
fire and smoke damage arising from	Note: Tick only one box	Confined to room or compartment of origin:			
an uncontrolled fire	in this section	Confined to the floor of origin:			
and whether it is likely to be:		Confined to the building of origin:			
		Less then 500m ²		Tick one bo	ox below
	Damage beyond building	Less than 500m ² 500m ² to 999m ²]
	of origin:	1000m ² to 9999m ²]
		100000m ² to 100000m ²]
		Over 100000m ²			

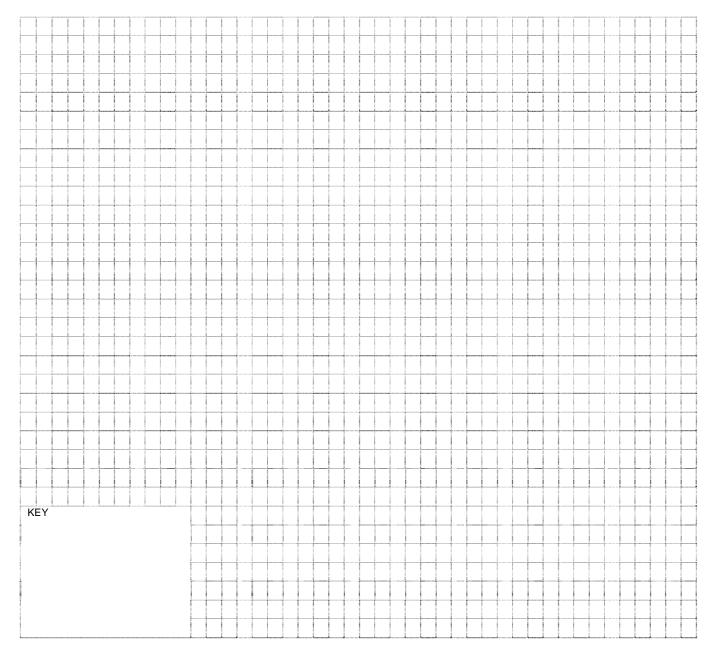
Other Relevant Information:

Building Plan

Insert plan of your building here or if you do not posses one, use this space to draw your building floor plan (this does not have to be to scale). Further guidance can be found in Part 1 Section 4.1 of the appropriate guide. Mark on all fire precautions equipment e.g. Fire doors, Extinguishers, Emergency lighting, Fire alarm and any fire detection.

Does the premises appear to meet the necessary requirements that are defined in Part 2 of the appropriate guide?

If the answer is NO, then as a significant finding, document the deficiency and any remedial actions necessary in order to comply with the requirements.



FIRE HAZARDS AND THEIR ELIMINATION OR CONTROL

1. SOURCES OF FUEL

1.1	Are there any highly flammable substances in the premises. E.g. Paints, thinners, flammable gases etc, flammable chemicals, plastics, rubber, foams – polystyrene / polyethylene?	☐Yes Go to 1.2	⊡No Go to 1.3
1.2	Control Measures Replace them with safer alternatives Remove or significantly reduce any highly flammable substances Keep them in fire resisting stores Separate them from heat sources by use of fire resisting construction Keep minimum quantity in workroom Ensure all containers are kept closed when not in use Other (state here)		
	Are flammable liquids or gases used or stored in areas without adequate Ventilation?	□Yes	□No
	Control Measures	Go to 1.4	Go to 1.5
1.4	Improve ventilation Other (state here)		
	Are there quantities of combustible material stored, on display, or in use in the premises. E.g. Paper, cardboard, packaging, fabrics, wood?	⊡Yes Go to 1.6	□No Go to 1.7
1.6	Control Measures		
	Replace stocks of combustible materials with non combustibles Reduce stocks of readily combustible materials to a minimum Separate such materials from heat sources or by fire resisting construction Other (state here)		
1.7	Are quantities of combustible waste allowed to accumulate in the	□Yes	□No
	premises such as Paper, cardboard, wood shavings, dust?	Go to 1.8	Go to 1.9
1.8	Control Measures		
	Improve the arrangements for the disposal of waste and rubbish Improve the general housekeeping Ensure staff are aware of the standard of housekeeping required Give specific additional training to the staff responsible Other (state here)		

1.9 Does the premises contain foam filled furniture which is not combustion modified (see label) or is worn to the point that it exposes the foam interior?	∐Yes Go to 1.10	⊡No Go to 1.11
1.10 Control Measures Replace or repair Other (state here)		

1.11 Are areas of walls or ceilings covered with combustible linings? such as walls covered with carpet tiles, ceilings covered with polystyrene tiles. Do notice boards have large amounts of loose paper on them?	⊡Yes Go to 1.12	⊡No Go to 1.13
1.12 Control Measures		
Remove Reduce Treat with fire resisting solution Cover Replace large notice boards with small Other (state here)		

	□Yes	□No
	Go to 1.14	Go to 1.15
1.14 Control Measures		
Remove Treat with fire resisting solution Introduce real plants Replace with non combustible plants Other (state here)		

1.15	Are there additional sources of oxygen stored or used, such as oxidising chemicals, oxygen cylinders or piped systems?	☐Yes Go to 1.16	□No Go to 2.1
1.16	Control Measures		
	Move oxidising material away from any heat or flammable materials Control use and storage of oxygen and chemicals Remove sources of ignition Other (state here)		

Note any significant findings from section 1:

2. SOURCES OF IGNITION

2.1	Does the work activity involve hot work processes such as welding or flame cutting, hot surfaces, sparks? Are hazards introduced by outside contractors and building works?	☐Yes Go to 2.2	□No Go to 2.3
2.2	Control Measures Replace with a cold system Implement a hot work permit system Minimise the amount of combustible materials on the work area Arrange so that hot metal and sparks are safely contained Eliminate hot surfaces/sparks Ensure satisfactory control over works carried out by outside contractors Impose fire safety conditions on outside contractors Other (state here)		

2.3 Does the work activity involve processes such as incinerating or	□Yes	□No
Cooking?	Go to 2.4	Go to 2.5
2.4 Control Measures		
Ensure that cookers, incinerators, etc. are used in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Ensure they are cleaned regularly including surfaces, ducts or flues Ensure food cooking is not left unattended Give additional specific training to staff responsible Other (state here)		

2.5 Are heating appliances portable or of a radiant or open flame type?	□Yes	□No
2.5 Are nearing appliances pertable of or a radiant of open name type.	Go to 2.6	Go to 2.7
2.6 Control Measures		
Replace equipment with fixed convector heaters Ensure that gas or oil burning equipment is used in accordance with manufacturers instructions Ensure that all heaters are adequately guarded Ensure all portable heaters are stable and void of flammable materials Other (state here)		

2.7	Is smoking permitted?	□Yes	□No
		Go to 2.8	Go to 2.9
2.8	Control Measures		
	Implement a smoking policy which provides for a safe smoking area and prohibition elsewhere Ensure suitable arrangement for informing visitors Enforce the prohibition of matches and lighters in high-risk Other (state here)		

	□Yes	□No
2.9 Are there light fittings near combustible materials?	Go to 2.10	Go to 2.11
2.10 Control Measures	2.10	2.11
Remove combustible materials		
Replace tungsten/halogen bulbs with fluorescent tubes in areas where there is a	_	
possibility that combustible materials may be ignited Other (state here)		
Other (state here)		

2.11 Is electrical equipment and wiring: Faulty, damaged or not used in accordance with the Manufacturers Recommendations?	☐Yes Go to 2.12	□No Go to 2.13
2.12 Control Measures Repair or replace faulty or damaged equipment Portable Appliance Testing carried out Fixed installations periodically inspected and tested Suitable policy regarding the use of personal electrical appliances Ensure all fuses are the correct rating Other (state here)		2.10

	□Yes	□No
2.13 Are inspection lamps or extension leads used?	Go to 2.14	Go to 2.15
2.14 Control Measures		
Ensure extension leads are fully uncoiled Limit extension leads and adaptors Ensure extension leads are not overloaded Suitable guards are covering inspection lamps Ensure flexible power cables are kept as short as possible and safely routed Other (state here)		

2.15 Is Arson a potential problem?	☐Yes Go to	⊡No Go to
2.16 Control Measures	2.16	2.17
Improve security measures e.g. lighting, cameras Remove combustible storage / waste bins from perimeter of building Ensure combustible storage is contained with lid secure Other (state here)		

2.17 Is lightning a potential problem?	□Yes	□No
	Go to 2.18	Go to 3.1
2.18 Control Measures		
Install lightning protection system Extend fire detection to cover roof void Incorporate measures in your emergency plan Other (state here)		

Note any significant findings from section 2:

3. IDENTIFY PEOPLE AT RISK

3.1 Are there any groups of people at increased risk from fire i.e. work in remote areas, lone working, sleeping?	☐Yes Go to 3.2	⊡No Go to 3.3
3.2 Control Measures Can they be re-located Improve the means for warning them about fire i.e. alarm and detection system Improve means of escape Other (state here)		

3.3	Are there people present who may be unable to react quickly to a fire	□Yes	□No
	due to safety critical work process?	Go to 3.4	Go to 3.5
3.4	Control Measures		
	Introduce appropriate close down procedure Improve means of warning / means of escape Other (state here)		

3.5 In the event of a fire are there people present whose disabilities would put them at a disadvantage when required to evacuate in an	□Yes	□No
emergency?	Go to 3.6	Go to 3.7
3.6 Control Measures		
Incorporate Measures in your Emergency Plan Provide additional specialist equipment If staff are required to assist in an evacuation ensure sufficient numbers and appropriate training Provide safe refuges Other (state here)		

3.7 Are visitors or members of the public likely to be unfamiliar wi escape routes ?	th the	□No
escape roules ?	Go to 3.	8 Go to 3.9
3.8 Control Measures		
Ensure employees are adequately trained to assist with evacuation Improve signage Other (state here)		

3.9	Are builders, contractors or maintenance workers temporarily on	Yes	□No
	site?	Go to 3.10	Go to 4.1
3.10	Control Measures		
	Ensure they are aware of fire safety arrangements and emergency plan Other (state here)		

Note any significant findings from section 3:

4. MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM FIRE

4.1	In the event of fire can everyone safely escape from the premises?	□Yes	□No
4.1	In the event of the can everyone salely escape from the premises?	Go to 4.3	Go to 4.2
4.2	Control Measures		
	Ensure existing exit routes and exits are available and unobstructed Improve fire alarm / detection system Provide additional routes and exits Provide training for safe evacuation Secure reasonable arrangements for disabled occupants Implement routine checks Other (state here)		

4.3	In the event of fire can everyone turn their back on the fire and evacuate to a place of safety?	☐Yes Go to 4.5	⊡No Go to 4.4
4.4	Control Measures	60 10 4.5	90 10 4.4
	Provide additional escape routes Provide and maintain protected routes Provide compensating features i.e. smoke detection, engineer solution Other (state here)		

4.5	Do doors on escape routes, where necessary, open in the direction of travel?	□Yes	
		Go to 4.7	Go to 4.6
4.6	Control Measures		
	Reduce number of people using exit to less than 60 people Re-hang in direction of travel Other (state here)		

4.7	Are door fastenings on exit routes and final exits easily operable?	☐Yes Go to 4.9	□No Go to 4.8
4.8	Control Measures	90 10 4.9	90104.8
	Replace with a more suitable fastening Provide notices giving information on how to operate exit doors Provide training on operating techniques Other (state here)		

4.9 Are any fire resisting doors a poor fit or requiring fitment or attention to	□Yes	□No
a self closing mechanism?	Go to 4.10	Go to 4.11
4.10 Control Measures		
Fit self closers Ensure doors fit correctly Implement routine check on door operation and maintain as required Other (state here)		

4.11 Are any fire resisting doors wedged or propped open?	□Yes	□No
	Go to 4.12	Go to 4.13
4.12 Control Measures		
Fit automatic door closers Ensure employee's are aware of fire safety precautions Other (state here)		

4.13 Are all exit routes and exits adequately signed ?	☐Yes	
	Go to 4.15	Go to 4.14
4.14 Control Measures		
Install sufficient signs to enable people to find their way out Ensure signs are unobstructed and clearly visible from an appropriate deistance Other (state here)		

4.15 Are all exit routes and exits adequately illuminated ?	∐Yes	
4.16 Control Measures	Go to 5.1	Go to 4.16
4.16 Control measures		
Install emergency lighting Improve existing emergency lighting Other (state here)		

Compliance Section 4

Indicate the preventative and protective fire safety measures taken to show compliance with Part 2 of the Order for **Emergency routes and exits.**

5. FIRE FIGHTING AND FIRE DETECTION

5.1	Are there sufficient extinguishers and hose reels of the appropriate type for the risk and are they located correctly?	☐Yes Go to 5.3	⊡No Go to 5.2
5.2	Control Measures	0010010	
	Provide suitable additional fire fighting equipment including specialist equipment for special hazards Locate on stands or brackets Make visible and unobstructed Provide additional signage Other (state here)		

5.3	Have sufficient people been trained in the use of fire fighting equipment?	☐Yes Go to 5.5	
5.4	Control Measures	60 10 5.5	Go to 5.4
	Implement training programme Other (state here)		

5.5 In the event of fire are there suitable arrangements for giving warning, Including where necessary automatic fire detection?	☐Yes Go to 5.7	⊡No Go to 5.6
5.6 Control Measures		
Install a more effective fire alarm system and or detection system Other (state here)		

5.7 Is the signage for the fire fighting equipment and fire a satisfactory?		□No
Salisiaciony	Go to 5.9	Go to 5.8
5.8 Control Measures		
Improve signage Other (state here)		

5.9	Are all appropriate persons trained on how to operate the fire warning	□Yes	□No
	system and the action they should take upon hearing it?	Go to 6.1	Go to 5.10
5.10	Control Measures		
	Implement training programme Provide clear instructions Other (state here)		

Compliance Section 5

Indicate the preventative and protective fire safety measures taken to show compliance with Part 2 of the Order for **Fire fighting and Fire detection.**

6. PROCEDURES, ARRANGEMENTS AND TRAINING

6.1	Are sufficient person(s) available to assist in implementation of fire safety measures?	Yes	No
6.2	Are appropriate fire procedures in place, recorded and available for relevant persons to read?	Yes	No
6.3	Are people nominated to respond to fire and assist with evacuation?	Yes	No
6.4	Is there appropriate liaison with the Fire and Rescue Authority?	Yes	No
6.5	Are routine in-house inspections of fire precautions undertaken?	Yes	No
6.6	Are new employees, tenants or building users given fire safety instruction on induction or taking over use of the premises?	Yes	No
6.7	Are all staff given periodic refresher training at suitable intervals?	Yes	No
6.8	Are building occupants aware of specific actions if there is a fire?	Yes	No
6.9	Are staff with special responsibilities e.g. Fire Marshals/Wardens/stewards given additional training?	Yes	No
6.10	Have the Employers of contractors working at the premises ie. cleaners been informed of significant findings and fire procedures?	Yes	No
6.11	Are persons under 18 employed, if so has an assessment been made of risks special to them and have their parents been informed of significant findings and fire procedures?	Yes	No
6.12	Are fire drills carried out at appropriate intervals?	Yes	No

Indicate any deficiencies in this section :-

7. MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

7.1	Are the premises adequately maintained?	☐Yes Go to 7.3	⊡No Go to 7.2
7.2	Control Measures		
	Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

7.3	Are door fastenings on all exit doors adequately maintained?	☐Yes Go to 7.5	□No Go to 7.4
7.4	Control Measures		
	Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

7.5	Do all self closing devices and hold open devices work correctly?	□Yes	□No
	•	Go to 7.7	Go to 7.6
7.6	Control Measures		
	Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

7.7	Has the emergency lighting system been tested and serviced (Monthly, Six-monthly, Annually) and according to manufacturers instructions?	☐Yes Go to 7.8	⊡No Go to 7.9
7.8	Control Measures		
	Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

7.9 Has the fire alarm / detection system been regularly tested and serviced (Weekly, Annually) and according to manufacturers instructions?	☐Yes Go to 7.11	□No Go to 7.10
7.10 Control Measures		
Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

7.11 Have all fire extinguishers and hose reels been regularly tested and Serviced (Monthly, Annually) and according to manufacturers instructions?		□No
		Go to 7.12
7.12 Control Measures		
Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		
7.13 Has the sprinklers and fixed fire fighting systems been regularly tested and serviced (Weekly, Quarterly, Six-monthly, Annually) and according	□Yes	□No
to manufacturers instructions?	Go to 8.1	Go to 7.14
7.14 Control Measures		
Correct any deficiencies and implement maintenance programme Other (state here)		

Compliance Section 7 Indicate the preventative and protective fire safety measures taken to show compliance with Part II of the Order for Maintenance.

8. FIRE SAFETY RECORDS

8.1	Have fire safety arrangements been recorded in a way that can be easily interpreted?	Yes	No
8.2	Are there details of any significant findings from the fire risk assessment and any actions taken?	Yes	No
8.3	Are there records of testing and checking of escape routes, including final exit locking mechanisms such as panic devices, emergency exit devices and any electromagnetic devices?	Yes	□No
8.4	Are there records of testing and maintenance of emergency lighting?	Yes	No
8.5	Are there records of testing and maintenance of fire alarm / detection systems?	Yes	□No
8.6	Are there records of false fire alarms?	Yes	□No
8.7	Are there records of testing and maintenance of fire extinguishers, hose reels and sprinkler systems etc.?	Yes	No
8.8	Are there records of relevant training of employees including evacuation drills?	Yes	□No
8.9	Are there records of emergency plans and actions for the relevant people to take in the event of fire?	Yes	No
Indi	cate any deficiencies in this section :-		

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT Significant findings

Premises address:

Postcode:

Risk Assessment Date:

Assessor 1:

Assessor 2: (If applicable)

ltem N ^º	Section and Sub Paragraph	Description of Unsatisfactory Condition	Persons at Risk	Existing Control Measures (If any)	Proposed Remedial action. By When, By Who

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT Review of the Significant Findings – Record of Deficiencies and Remedial Action

Premises address:

Postcode:

Date	ltem N ^º	Section and Sub Paragraph	Remedial Action	Date of Action	Signature of Person Carrying out Action

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service makes every effort to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this document. However, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service and their employees will not be held responsible for any form of loss or misinformation occurring due to the use of or reliance upon the information provided in this document. This document is provided 'as is' and we make no representations or warranties about the accuracy, completeness or suitability for any purpose of the information and images contained within. This document could include technical or other inaccuracies or typographical errors.