



Memo-Servicing & Technical Info

I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS SERVICING/TECHNICAL ADVICE/ UPDATE

From: The National Office

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The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

On the reverse of this memo is a copy of an article from the Portsmouth News sent to us by Alan Wilcox of Uni-guard.

Ron Reid the author is a specialist in Health & Safety law and has very kindly allowed us to attach a copy of his Health & Safety Briefing from which this article was extracted.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 will come into force on 1st April 2006 and will have a major effect on our industry in much the same way as the Health and Safety legislation has affected every industry.

The Guidance notes in respect of the Order place a statutory duty on the “Responsible Person” (the User) to ensure the competence of the persons and companies who supply, install and maintain fire alarms and fire fighting equipment.

They state that fire protection products and related services should be fit for their purpose and properly installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions or the relevant British Standard.

Third-party certification schemes for fire protection products and related services are an effective means of providing the fullest possible assurances, offering a level of quality, reliability and safety that non-certificated products may lack. **This does not mean goods and services that are not third-party approved are less reliable, but there is no obvious way in which this can be demonstrated.**

In simple terms this means that besides employing installation, commissioning and service technicians who hold current recognised certificates of training and competence the company employing them must be able to demonstrate its competence in respect of servicing carried out. This will mean that the competent and qualified personnel who undertake the work are supported with the information, equipment, tools, materials and administration necessary to ensure the work carried out is fully compliant with the appropriate standards and regulations and fit for the intended use. In other words both the company providing or servicing the equipment and the staff they use, either directly employed or sub-contractors must be able to demonstrate their competence by means of suitable certification.

We believe the best method of demonstrating this competence is for member companies to be registered by a UKAS Certification Organisation in accordance with the requirements of BS EN ISO9001 and the relevant BAFE Scheme.

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