

Appendix A

The Assessment of Risk from Fire

It is innate to the process of carrying out a fire risk assessment that there be an assessment of fire risk. A competent fire risk assessor must be able to make a subjective judgement – albeit based largely on objective evidence – of the overall risk to life from fire in the premises for which a fire risk assessment is carried out.

Accordingly, the fire risk assessor should be able to;

- Appreciate generally the concept of risk assessment as it applies to fire.
- Understand the terms “fire hazard” and “fire risk” and appreciate the relationship between the two.
- Within the fire risk assessment, reach a subjective opinion on differing levels of fire risk for the purposes of making comparisons in premises where the fire risk assessment is being carried out.

To enable the fire risk assessor to carry out the above, the fire risk assessor should;

- Be aware of the broad range of methodologies of fire risk assessments available.
- Be able to apply an appropriate methodology of fire risk assessment in respect of the premises to which the fire risk assessment relates.
- Be able to identify fire hazards (both common and process) and the risks associated with those hazards.
- Be able to apply an understanding of fire hazard and fire risk in the premises in context, to make an informed judgement on the appropriate level of fire precautions in the premises where the fire risk assessment is being carried out.
- Be able to express fire risk for the client in such a manner as to provide at least, a broad comparison of the fire risk at different premises within a single estate of properties.