

Appendix F

Means of Escape

The proper provision of means of escape is an essential part of fire safety measures in all premises. A fire risk assessor must have regard to this important aspect.

Accordingly, the fire risk assessor should be able to;

- Understand the means of escape strategies for different types and occupancy of premises.
- Understand the principles of fire related emergency planning and evacuation.
- Understand the implications of how different needs of people can affect the selection of the appropriate means of escape.

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

- Understand that all persons within the premises should be able to reach a place of ultimate safety before life-threatening conditions arise; either unaided or with the assistance of staff - without FRS assistance. (RSET versus ASET)
- Understand that any emergency plan should be compatible with the normal every-day use of the premises.
- Understand the principles relating to alternative escape routes, dead ends and single direction of escape.
- Understand the principles relating to horizontal and vertical escape.
- Understand the principles relating to travel distances and travel times.
- Understand the principles relating to provision of adequate number(s) and dimensions of routes and exits.
- Understand the principles relating to appropriate use of door releases and other escape devices.
- Understand the principles relating to protected escape routes.
- Understand the principles relating to relative and ultimate places of safety.
- Understand the principles relating to means of escape other than stairs.
- Understand the relationship between fire detection systems and means of escape.
- Have an awareness of how smoke control systems can assist means of escape.
- Have an awareness of the provisions for, and maintenance of, evacuation signage.
- Have an awareness of the provisions for, and maintenance of, emergency lighting.
- Have an awareness of procedures and methods of assisted evacuation including the need for the training of staff in the emergency procedures and use of such equipment.