

ASSESS THE RISKS



A BWF-CERTIFIRE FIRE DOOR & DOORSET SCHEME FACT CARD ON

FIRE SAFETY ORDER

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

New fire safety laws, applying to all businesses came into effect on 1st October 2006. Replacing the old fire certificate, the new law shifts the responsibility for fire safety from the fire authorities to whoever has day-to-day control of premises. Each business must appoint a responsible person, whether it be the owner, manager, facilities manager or an expert consultant to manage the fire risk to the building, those using the premises and its immediate surroundings.

The emphasis of the new Fire Safety Order is on preventing fires and reducing risk. The Department of Communities and Local Government, which is responsible for the legislative change, has divided all non-domestic buildings in to 11 sections, producing a detailed guide for each. The guides have been developed to inform the responsible person how to comply with the new regulations by helping to carry out a fire risk assessment of the building and identifying the fire precautions which need to be implemented. The guides, available for download from www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk, have been written for people who have limited training and experience in undertaking a risk assessment, but if you are unsure of how to complete it, you should contact a trained professional.

Risk Assessments

A risk assessment is an organised look at what, in your work activities and workplace, could cause harm to people. In the case of a fire, it is identifying possible causes of fire, the precautions you need to take to prevent something igniting and, in the event of a fire how to reduce the risk the occupants, building and its contents. There are five key steps to undertaking a risk assessment (see right).

Fire Doors

Fire doors and all passive fire protection products play a unique role in the fire safety of a building by containing a fire to a single compartment of a building and therefore reducing the risk to those in other compartments. Properly maintained fire doors should be a part of the fire safety plan for every building. When a fire door is installed, it should be done so with certificated components that will ensure it achieves its fire rating. Over time, without the correct maintenance, the fire door could fail so as part of your risk assessment, you should complete the maintenance checklist (turn over) to ensure your fire doors are still in working order. You should then review and complete the checklist every 6 months for low usage buildings and every 3 months for high usage buildings. To find replacement fire door components, visit www.bwf.org.uk and search for a fire door or component supplier and installer in your area.

5 key steps to undertaking a risk assessment:

- Identify potential fire hazards
- Identify the people who might be at risk and their location
- Evaluate the risks, review your existing fire precautions and take appropriate action
- Record your findings and tell your employees
- Review and revise assessment as necessary

FIRE SAFETY ORDER

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Fire Safety Order Guides

Guide 1 - Offices and shops

Guide 2 - Factories and warehouses

Guide 3 - Sleeping Accommodation

Guide 4 - Residential care premises

Guide 5 - Educational premises

Guide 6 - Small and medium places of assembly

Guide 7 - Large places of assembly

Guide 8 - Theatres and cinemas

Guide 9 - Outdoor events

Guide 10 - Healthcare premises

Guide 11 - Transport premises and facilities

www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk



Label (use your bwfgaptester to look for the label)

Has the fire door got a BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door scheme label on the top edge?

☐

If not, can you confirm that the door is in fact a fire door and has been certificated as such?

☐

Door Leaf

Does the door leaf sit against the door stop and is it free of distortion?

☐

If the door is veneered or lipped, is the glue still holding these products firmly in place?

☐

Is the door free from damage including dents, and holes?

☐

Door Frame

Is the door frame firmly attached to the wall?

☐

If a planted door stop is present, is it firmly attached?

☐

Is the frame to door leaf gap consistently 3mm? (use the **bwfgaptester**)

☐

Intumescent/Smoke/Acoustic seals

Are intumescent seals in place? (if not install immediately)

☐

Are the seals well attached inside the groove in the frame or door leaf?

☐

Are the seals free from damage and paint?

☐

If you have a brush or fin type seal, is it free from damage or breakage?

☐

If fitted are the smoke and acoustic seals continuous around the frame or door leaf?

☐

Hinges

Is there a minimum of 3 hinges with all the screws fitted?

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Are all the screws the correct size?

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Are the hinges free of metal fragments and oil leakage? (these are signs of wear)

☐

Are the hinges free from non-combustable packing?

☐

Door Closers

Open the door to 5 degrees or 75mm. Does it close and engage with the latch?

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Is the closer securely attached to the door and frame?

☐

Is the closer free from damage and not leaking?

☐

If unlatched, does the closer hold the door in line with the frame and intumescent seal?

☐

If hung in pairs, do they close in line if both opened and released together?

☐

If hold open device is used, is it electronically released?

☐

Does the hold open device release the door when required?

☐

Lock and Latch

Does the latch hold the door firmly in place without rattling?

☐

Glazing and Glass

Is the intumescent seal continuous and attached to the glass and bead?

☐

Are the glazing beads well attached to the frame and free from damage?

☐

Is the glass free from damage and cracking?

☐

If the glass has been replaced, is it fire rated glass?

☐

If glazing panels are below 1500mm from the bottom of door, is the glass safety glass?

☐

Threshold Gap

Is there a consistent gap under the door that allows it to swing without touching the floor covering?

☐

Is the door to floor covering gap consistently 10mm (3mm if smoke seals are fitted) or less when the door is closed?

☐

If the door leaf is fitted with a threshold seal, does the seal make contact with the floor covering when the door is closed?

☐

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