



UK legislation

Current UK fire safety legislation; introduced in 2006, has changed the way buildings are assessed for fire safety requirements. The identification and management of fire safety through a 'risk assessment' approach has replaced the prescriptive method of compliance and fire certificates.

Buildings owners/occupiers, managers, employers and landlords are now responsible for ensuring a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment has been carried out and in most cases documented. Fire risk assessments must be completed by the Responsible Person/Duty Holder or another competent person.

'In carrying out a risk assessment, however, the responsible person may decide that, given the nature of the premises or the people involved, they do not have the necessary competence to discharge their duties under the FSO. In that case, they could choose to appoint one or more 'competent' persons to assist him/her.'

Communities and local government

How can I find out more?

Simon Ince
Manager Personnel Certification Schemes

T: +44 (0)1925 646 658
F: +44 (0)1925 646 667
E: simon.ince@exova.com

Jayne Dennett
Administration Manager for FIRAS and FRACS

T: +44 (0)1925 646 663
F: +44 (0)1925 646 667
E: jayne.dennett@exova.com

For details of certificated assessors visit
www.warringtonfire.net/riskassessor

Warrington Certification
Holmesfield Road, Warrington
Cheshire, WA1 2DS UK

T: +44 (0)1925 646 666
F: +44 (0)1925 646 667
E: warrington@exova.com
W: www.warringtonfire.net

Registered In England. Registered Office: Warrington Certification Limited, 6 Coronet Way, Centenary Park, Eccles, Manchester, M50 1RE United Kingdom. Reg No. 02250182

Fire Risk Assessors Certification Scheme



Why should a Responsible person/Duty Holder choose to appoint a FRACS assessor?

Certification schemes for persons should only be established in response to specific government requirements (i.e. protection of the public) or demonstrated market need/desire (i.e. credibility, confidence and improvement of the profession). BS EN ISO/IEC 17024:2004

In order to protect the Responsible Person/Duty Holder and provide credibility for the fire risk assessment profession, Warrington Certification Limited and RICS have devised FRACS.

An independent and objective evidence gathering exercise that proves a fire risk assessor has the required technical skills to complete a fire risk assessment. This examination type assessment uses an objective scoring system which enables any risk assessor regardless of experience or qualifications to be assessed against a set of standardised criteria; thus allowing for very accurate assessment of technical competence and enabling a 'like for like' comparison for the Responsible person/Duty Holder.

FRACS is the only third party certification scheme in the country that proves a fire risk assessors technical competence. Using a national model of assessment; it provides a powerful demonstration that a Responsible Person/Duty Holder has satisfied due diligence when appointing a fire risk assessor.

Selecting a competent person

'22 years in the fire safety industry' Does this mean an assessor is technically able to complete a fire risk assessment?'

'I have been on a very detailed and approved training course that covered all aspects of fire risk assessment ' Does a certificate of attendance guarantee an assessor has learnt and retained the knowledge and skills required to do the job correctly?'

Identification of technical competence is the most important and also the most difficult component in the due diligence process when selecting a competent person to complete a fire risk assessment. In the vast majority of cases a Responsible Person/Duty Holder has to take on face value the claims made by a person/company in respect of what makes them competent, and has to make subjective assumptions and judgments about those claims of experience and qualifications. Unscrupulous fire risk assessors understand that potential clients are not knowledgeable about fire risk assessment and therefore they are easily able to sell themselves as experts. Many fire risk assessors operating in the UK today as 'competent' have little relevant experience or qualifications. The work they produce could potentially put lives at risk and should the enforcement authorities audit a risk assessment that is technically poor, the Responsible Person/Duty Holder could be faced with prosecution or have enforcement notices served against them.

Why become a FRACS certificated competent fire risk assessor?

FRACS provides a practicing fire risk assessor with an independent technical reference which proves the competence to produce a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment. It offers a market advantages over those assessors without accredited certification, who have to prove competence by other means. In the public sector, where due diligence has to be seen to be served; local authorities, schools, housing associations, etc can appoint a FRACS assessor with full confidence, as the assessment is in accordance with a government approved model similar to that for gas and electrical installers. It also enables FRACS assessors to provide a certificate of completion for the Responsible Person/Duty Holder.