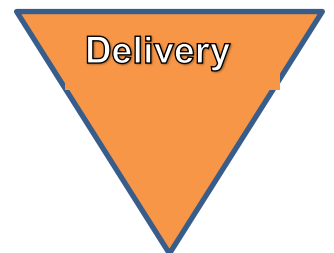


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Protecting local  
communities

# Fire Safety General Service Standards



July 2017



<b>Delivery Area</b>	<b>Fire Safety General Service Standards</b>
<b>Policy Process</b>	<b>Detail</b>
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<b>ELT Approved:</b>	<b>18 July 2017</b>
<b>FBU Consultation:</b>	
<b>Unison Consultation:</b>	
<b>Executive Committee Approved:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Policy Register Review Date:</b>	<b>July 2020</b>
<b>Implementing Officer:</b>	<b>Joe Flounders: Head of Fire Engineering</b>

# FIRE SAFETY GENERAL SERVICE STANDARDS

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. What you can expect from the Fire and Rescue Authority?**

This document explains what you can expect of the Regulatory function of the Brigade's Fire Authority (FRA). Whether you run a business, are an employee or a member of the public, we are committed to providing you with an efficient, courteous and helpful service and this document tells you how we will achieve these aims and what standards we will meet.

## **2. QUICK-GUIDE**

### **2.1. The regulatory function of the Fire and Rescue Authority**

We work to protect people in case of fire and prevent and respond to fires and other emergencies. We regulate to protect people in case of fire. We focus on higher risks and have a strategy and priorities in place to help us do this. [To learn more, click here](#)

### **2.2. How we work**

We want to help those we regulate to provide safety, especially when they want to do so. We act proportionally to the risk that we see, so that minor matters are dealt with informally whereas serious matters are dealt with more formally. We comply with the Regulators' Code. [To learn more, click here.](#)

### **2.3. Working with businesses and others we regulate**

We want to talk and engage with business. Our officers will adhere to established standards and will work with other authorities where it will benefit business. [To learn more, click here.](#)

### **2.4. Helping you get it right**

We will welcome you contacting us about any fire safety matter that concerns you. We look to help before we look to enforce the law. Our advice will be the best we can provide, based on the information you give us. [To learn more, click here.](#)

### **2.5. Inspections and other safety visits**

We visit businesses proactively and reactively. We give notice of proactive visits we plan to carry out. [To learn more, click here.](#)

### **2.6. Responding to non-compliance**

When we find people at risk in case of fire we will act proportionately, taking into account the likelihood of fire and the consequences of fire if it breaks out. If we make requirements of you, we will explain what we want you to do and will provide contact details. [To learn more, click here.](#)

## **2.7. Requests for our service**

When we receive requests for assistance, we will provide as much help as we can and will let you know what to expect at each step along the way. [To learn more, click here.](#)

## **2.8. How to contact us**

You can find out contact details here. All contacts will be treated in confidence (unless you tell us otherwise). [To find them, click here.](#)

## **2.9. Working with others**

Where we can, we work with other authorities to make our work more efficient and to save each of us collecting the same information from businesses. It also enables us to signpost information that might be helpful. [To learn more, click here.](#)

## **2.10. Our team**

Our officers are competent for the tasks they deal with. [To learn more, click here.](#)

## **2.11. Having your say**

We want you to be confident to talk to us, whether you want help or challenge something we have asked you to do. You will find us willing to talk about all these matters. Whether it is good or bad, we want to hear from you. [To learn more, click here.](#)

### **3. MORE ABOUT THE REGULATORY FUNCTION OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

- 3.1. The FRA delivers services to the community in a number of ways including:
  - Prevention activity (helping people to be safe on the roads and at home),
  - Protection work (helping people to be safe at work and at leisure), and
  - Response (helping people in all kinds of emergency situations)
- 3.2. While we do all we can to keep people safe and to provide a rescue and emergency service we only regulate (or enforce) fire safety law as a part of our Protection work.
- 3.3. A table showing the Protection work that the FRA undertakes is shown at [appendix 1](#) to this document. We involve ourselves where the risk to life, business, property and the environment is highest<sup>1</sup>, and we make a fundamental contribution to the maintenance and improvement of public health, quality of life and wellbeing through our activity.
- 3.4. Details of our current strategy is available at [Business Safety](#)
- 3.5. We are committed to being transparent in our activities and we publish our performance data annually. Our latest performance data is available at [Business Safety](#)

### **4. MORE ABOUT HOW WE WORK**

- 4.1. We carry out all our activities in a way that supports those we regulate to provide safety to people in case of fire and to grow as a business. Information and guidance is made available to help those we regulate. Where we can (in terms of time, effort and impact it would take to understand your business), we will tailor advice to your particular needs.
- 4.2. We use a risk-based and/or intelligence-led approach to target our resources, including how we monitor and check safety with statutory requirements. The auditing programme enables CFB to show that we are meeting our enforcement responsibilities in respect of the Fire Safety Order.
- 4.3. The auditing programme is underpinned by a determination of the level of risk presented by premises. The targeting of audits is determined in a number of ways including;
  - The type of premises
  - The use of the premises

- The size of the premises
  - Risk to life
  - Occupancy
  - Fire-fighter safety
  - Heritage loss
- 4.4. To assist in this determination, premises are categorised by use of the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) model codes A – T, which bands premises by their function i.e. hospitals, offices, factories etc. Premises are further subdivided by a five category risk rating from 'Very Low' to 'Very High'. Where a premises has ceased to trade or is unoccupied a risk rating of 'None' is applied. When applied to the known premises on CFRMIS a risk profile is produced; the risk profile is dynamic by nature as the risk rating can fluctuate during the process of officer's interactions with individual premises, through new premises entering the system or premises having been removed from the system.
- 4.5. In order to achieve a balanced approach to the auditing process a frequency of inspection is assigned to each FSEC code and risk rating that enables the focus of attention to be on those premises deemed to present the greatest risk. This is coupled with a responsibility level of auditing officer that ensures an appropriate level of responsibility is applied to each risk rating.
- 4.6. We aim to complete in excess of 2000 audits annually.
- 4.7. We deal proportionately with breaches of the law as set out in our enforcement policy, which is available at [Business Safety](#) and which includes the taking of firm enforcement action when necessary.
- 4.8. Our service will be delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Regulators Code, which can be seen by clicking [here](#).
- 4.9. We are ethical in the way we work and officers will treat people with courtesy, consideration, openness and honesty. We respect privacy. In the provision of our services this means we will:
- be independent, fair and consistent
  - take full account of what people say to us
  - establish the facts and communicate accurately, promptly and in plain language
  - explain fully the reasons for decisions, and
  - treat people with respect and not discriminate on any improper ground.

## 5. MORE ABOUT WORKING WITH BUSINESSES AND OTHERS WE REGULATE

- 5.1. We would like to work with you to help your business to be successful. It is important to us that you feel able to come to us for advice when you need it. You will find us ready to help you with working through issues relating to fire safety.
- 5.2. In all your dealings with us you can expect (and will receive) an efficient and professional service. Our team of officers will:
- be courteous and polite;
  - identify themselves by name and provide you with their contact details;
  - try to understand how your business operates and the pressures you face;
  - provide details of how you can raise any concerns you may have;
  - agree time scales, expectations and preferred methods of communications with you; and
  - ensure that we are available to discuss progress against issues raised.
- 5.3. We recognise that your business will receive advice and inspections from other organisations. We will do our best to work alongside them and to ensure that you receive the best information, advice and service that we can provide.



## **6. MORE ABOUT HELPING YOU GET IT RIGHT**

- 6.1. We would like to work with you to help your business to be successful. It is important to us that you / your business feel able to come to us for advice when you need it. You will find us ready to help you with working through issues relating to fire safety. If you contact us to discuss a fire safety issue, we will only take enforcement action if the safety of people in your premises is in danger.
- 6.2. We make information and guidance on meeting your statutory requirements available to you, you can either contact us directly at our helpdesk on 01429 874109 or visit our [Website](#).
- 6.3. Where you need advice to help you meet your legal obligations we will:
  - provide reliable advice that supports safety;
  - provide advice that is appropriate to your circumstances (so far as time will reasonably allow)
  - suggest the most straight forward (best value) solution for you;
  - provide clear advice that can be easily understood and implemented by you;
  - distinguish legal obligations from good practice advice;
  - send written confirmation of our advice; and
  - acknowledge good safety practices that you have in place.

## **7. MORE ABOUT INSPECTIONS AND OTHER SAFETY VISITS**

- 7.1. Compliance is about providing safety in case of fire. We work proactively and reactively. Reactive work comes to us from complaints made to us about the safety of premises. Proactive work is based on information and intelligence we have about premises and which contribute to a risk-based or intelligence-led list of premises for us to visit. We always base our visits on an assessment of risk. When working proactively we will give you notice that we intend to visit your premises.
- 7.2. Depending on the nature of our visit, officers will (prior to or at the time of our visit):
  - explain the reason and purpose of the visit;
  - carry their identification (and authorisation) cards and produce them for you on request;
  - exercise discretion in front of your customers and staff;

- consider how you approach fire safety in your premises and take this into account in future interactions with you;
- provide advice to support you in meeting your statutory obligations, if required;
- provide a written record of the visit (in most cases, especially if you request it);

We do not charge you for undertaking any of our visits.

7.3. If you experience a fire incident officers will contact you and arrange to visit your premises within 5 working days to undertake a specific post fire inspection, during the inspection you can expect;

- An investigation into the cause of the fire;
- Provision of advice on the prevention of a re-occurrence;
- Provision of general fire safety advice;
- An audit to be undertaken.

## 8. MORE ABOUT RESPONDING TO NON-COMPLIANCE

8.1. Non-compliance means that we believe a person is (or people are) at risk in case of fire. In such cases we will respond proportionately, taking account the likelihood and severity of that risk, in line with our enforcement policy.

[Business Safety](#)

8.2. When we require you to take action to remedy unsafe conditions we will:

- explain the nature of the risk;
- discuss what is required of you to achieve safety (taking into account your circumstances, if you have explained them to us);
- explain any advice, actions required or decisions that we have taken;
- agree timescales for making improvements that are reasonable to you and us;
- provide you with details in writing of how to appeal against our regulatory decisions (and how to complain about our conduct);
- explain what happens next, especially if you do not make improvements;
- provide you with our contact details; and
- keep in touch with you (where required) until you have provided safety.

## 9. MORE ABOUT REQUESTS FOR OUR SERVICE

9.1. We respond to requests for assistance that we receive, including requests for advice, appeals and complaints. We will:

- acknowledge your request within 24 hours;
- tell you when you can expect to receive a substantive response;
- seek to fully understand the nature of your request;
- explain what we may or may not be able to do, so that you know what to expect;
- keep you informed of our progress throughout our involvement;
- provide clear advice where appropriate; and
- inform you of the outcome of our involvement as appropriate.

9.2. The standard time we intend to take to respond to your requests for assistance are:

- alleged fire safety deficiencies within 24hrs where the perceived risk is high, otherwise within 7 days,
- request for advice telephone contact within 2 days
- request for advice site visit within 7 days

Please note that these are maximum time periods that we aim to work within.

## 10. THIS IS HOW TO CONTACT US

You can contact us by:

Telephone: 01429 874109

Email: [fireengineeringhelpdesk@clevelandfire.gov.uk](mailto:fireengineeringhelpdesk@clevelandfire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)

Post: Fire Engineering  
Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Training and Administration Hub  
Endeavour House  
Queens Meadow Business Park  
Hartlepool  
TS25 5TH

In person: At the above address or alternatively call in to your local community fire station

We will treat your contact with us in confidence unless you have expressly informed us that we can share your details in relation to the matter you have

raised with us. We respond to anonymous complaints and enquiries when we judge it appropriate to do so.

Personal data will be dealt with in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Brigade's General Data Protection Regulation Policy.

## **11. MORE ABOUT US WORKING WITH OTHERS**

11.1. We work closely with other regulators and council services including (among others):

- licensing authorities,
- building control bodies
- environmental health,
- environment agency
- trading standards,
- the health and safety executive, and
- housing authorities

11.2. Working with our partners means that we can signpost to you to advice and guidance that you might need or that might benefit your business and means that we can better target our resources to where they will be most beneficial or make / keep people safe.

11.3. We determine our activities by assessing the needs of local people and business communities, and considering the risks that require addressing. We do this by:

- producing a community integrated risk management plan (CIRMP) every four years,
- producing a service plan annually to meet the CIRMP,
- by using data and other information available to us and our partners.

These activities ensure our resources are targeted appropriately and in light of local needs and national priorities. Our aim is to provide a streamlined service and to maintain safe and healthy communities.

## 12. MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM

12.1. We have a dedicated team of competent officers to deliver our services and have arrangements in place to ensure their ongoing professionalism and competence. Officers will seek to work with those they regulate in the most appropriate way to meet individual needs.

## 13. MORE ABOUT HAVING YOUR SAY

13.1. If for any reason you wish to challenge a regulatory decision, appeal against a notice or complain about officer conduct, the method of how to do so is in our Challenges, Appeals and Complaints procedure. [Business Safety](#)

13.2. We are always willing to discuss with you why we have acted in a particular way or made particular requirements of you.

13.3. We value your input. To help us ensure that our service is meeting your needs we would like to hear from you whether your experience of us has been good or whether we need to improve. Hearing from you ensures that any changes we make to our services are made in the right way. From time to time we operate customer satisfaction surveys and while we encourage your participation in these, we would welcome your feedback to us at any time. You can provide feedback in the following ways:

Telephone: 01429 874109

Email: [fireengineeringhelpdesk@clevelandfire.gov.uk](mailto:fireengineeringhelpdesk@clevelandfire.gov.uk)

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VMNWDJH>

Web: [www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)

Post: Fire Engineering  
Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Training and Administration Hub  
Endeavour House  
Queens Meadow Business Park  
Hartlepool  
TS25 5TH

## Appendix 1 – Table of Protection work undertaken

This table shows the Protection work undertaken by the Cleveland Fire Authority Fire Engineering Department

Enforcing authority	Consultations
<p><b>List of what we regulate / enforce:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>List of authorities with whom we consult:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing Authorities</li> <li>• Building Control Bodies</li> <li>• Housing Authorities</li> <li>• Care Quality Commission</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Executive</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Crown Premises Fire Inspectorate Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws that apply:</b></p> <p>The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>	<p><b>Laws that apply:</b></p> <p>The Licensing Act 2003  The Building Regulations 2010  The Housing Act 2004  The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005  H&amp;SAW etc Act 1974  Management of H&amp;S at Work Regulations 1999  Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999  Environmental Permitting Regulations 2008</p>