EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRIVING FIRE STANDARD REVIEW

The below table shows the original ERD Fire Standard which was published in 2021 in the left column. The right column shows the proposed changes to the ERD Fire Standard as a result of the workshop held with ERD practitioners in March 2025. Notable changes have been highlighted in red. Minor changes where text may have been moved have not been highlighted.

Title of Standard	Emergency Response Driving
Review Date	25/03/2025

CURRENT FIRE STANDARD	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ERD FIRE STANDARD
Desired Outcome	
For all employees who drive using blue lights and claim any legal exemptions for a fire and rescue service purpose, to have been trained in a consistent way so that they drive safely, in line with the requirements of their role and in accordance with relevant legislation. For all response driver training instructors and assessors to be qualified in accordance with the relevant legislation.	A fire and rescue service that has the trust of the community in keeping them, and its employees safe because of its competent drivers. It is a service where drivers have been taught to drive safely by suitably trained and qualified instructors and assessors, in line with the requirements of their roles, and in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations. It is a service which gives due regard to relevant national guidance. A service that has a learning culture which considers the value of internal and external feedback, inspection outcomes, internal and external assurance activities. It reviews and regularly evaluates what it does to provide a better service to the public, while identifying and managing organisational risk.

What is required to meet the Fire Standard

A fire and rescue service **must**:

1. Comply with legislation and guidance that applies to emergency response driving

2. Adopt and align their emergency response driver training to the NFCC Emergency Response Driver and Instructor Framework

3. Adopt and align their emergency response driver instructor training to the NFCC Emergency Response Driver and Instructor Framework

4. Ensure that records of driver competency and refresher training are kept and maintained

5. Ensure that their driver training provision is periodically independently quality assured

A fire and rescue service **should**:

6. Ensure that both managers who are responsible for emergency response driving and those working as driving instructors, contribute to the continual improvement of driver training standards by communicating, sharing learning and experiences with the NFCC network of fire and rescue service driving instructors and centres through:

A fire and rescue service **must**:

1. Have a strategic approach to ensure that it can continue to deliver an emergency response in line with the risks outlined in its Community Risk Management Plan

2. Comply with legislation and regulations and give due regard to relevant national guidance including the NFCC Emergency Response Driver and Instructor Framework

3. Ensure that records of driver competency and revalidation training are kept and maintained

4. Ensure that their driver training provision is periodically independently quality assured

5. Deliver inclusive and accessible training, recognising that every workforce, community and group has different and diverse needs

6. Support the national Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG) through regional structures

7. Provide appropriate representation at relevant national meetings, events and conferences

8. Ensure that both managers who are responsible for emergency response driving and those working as driving instructors, contribute to the continual improvement of driver training standards. They do this by communicating and sharing learning and

a. Engaging on the NFCC Workplace online forum b. Supporting the national Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG) through regional structures c. Considering appropriate representation at relevant national events and conferences	experiences with the NFCC network of fire and rescue service driving instructors and centres through engagement with the relevant forums

Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard	

1. Improved road safety for the public and employees evidenced by:
 	
    a. Reduction in the number of low and high-speed collisions when responding
 	
    b. Reduction in injuries
 	
2. Defined route to competency by alignment to the framework and improved driver safety
 	
3. Compliance with related legislation, guidance and DfT Codes of Practice which supports:
 	
    a. Interoperability through collaboration of blue light resources
 	
    b. Opportunity for intra-service driver training provision
 	
More efficient transfer of appropriately trained and competent personnel between services
	1. Improved road safety for the public and employees evidenced by:
	
	    a. Reduction in the number of collisions when responding
	
	    b. Reduction in injuries
	
	    c. Reduction in corporate liability and associated costs
	
	2. Improved driving standards through adoption of the national ERDT framework
	
	3. Compliance with related legislation and regulations, and due regard to guidance which supports:
	
	    a. Interoperability through collaboration of blue light resources
	
	    b. Opportunity for intra-service driver training provision
	
	More efficient transfer of appropriately trained and competent personnel between services

Legal requirements or mandatory duties	

• Road Traffic Regulation Act (specifically Section 87) • Road Traffic Act • Road Safety Act 2006 - Section 19 *Not yet enacted* • The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations • Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations • The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions	• Road Traffic Regulation Act (specifically Section 87) • Road Traffic Act • Road Safety Act 2006 - Section 19 • The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations • Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations • The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions
Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards	
• National Occupational Standard – FF9	• National Occupational Standard – FF9 • Community Risk Management Planning • Operational Preparedness • Operational Competence • Leading and Developing People
Guidance and supporting information	
• Emergency response driver and instructor framework • Assessment forms linked to the above framework	• Emergency response driver and instructor framework • Assessment forms linked to the above framework