

# PROTECTION FIRE STANDARD REVIEW

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

Title of Standard	Protection	
Review Date	03/03/2025	
CURRENT FIRE STANDARD		PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PROTECTION FIRE STANDARD
Desired Outcome		
<p>A fire and rescue service that improves the safety and wellbeing of its communities by reducing risks and incidents in the built environment. It does this through educating and regulating those responsible for keeping buildings safe to adopt safer behaviours and delivering proportionate and robust fire protection activities, complying with its statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>One with a competent protection workforce which are targeted in line with its <a href="#">Community</a> risk management plan, utilising data and business intelligence to optimise resources. It proactively plans, responds and adapts to the diverse and changing needs of its <a href="#">Community</a>, ensuring its services are equally available to all.</p> <p>A service with a learning and sharing culture, working collaboratively with <a href="#">Others</a> where appropriate, seeking to improve and innovate protection activities. One that contributes to a more consistent national approach to reducing risk and keeping communities safe.</p>		<p>A fire and rescue service that improves the safety and wellbeing of its communities by reducing risks and incidents in the built environment, <b>keeping communities safe through educating and regulating those responsible for fire safety compliance to adopt safer behaviours. It delivers proportionate and varied fire protection interventions, whilst discharging its statutory responsibilities.</b></p> <p>One with a competent protection workforce <b>aligned to the needs</b> of its community risk management plan, utilising data and business intelligence to <b>demonstrate efficient and effective use of</b> resources. It proactively plans, responds and adapts to the diverse and changing needs of its community, ensuring its services are <b>equitably</b> available to all.</p> <p>A service with a learning and sharing culture, working collaboratively with <b>both internal and external stakeholders</b>, seeking to <b>continually</b></p>

	improve and innovate protection activities and interventions, in support of a shared local, regional and national vision.
<b>What is required to meet the Fire Standard</b>	
<b>Identifying risk and gathering evidence</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. through its <a href="#">Community</a> risk management planning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. identify and understand its risk profile related to the built environment, including premises they need to regulate; and</li> <li>B. ensure equality of fire safety provision by considering the needs of the whole <a href="#">Community</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. gather and maintain an accurate risk profile and supporting information about relevant premises in a manner that is compliant with legislation;</li> <li>3. make available information about premises to all employees who need it when required, allowing them to be informed, stay safe and effectively carry out their duties;</li> <li>4. ensure there is a mechanism for employees to feedback any new or emerging information or risks about buildings as a</li> </ol>	<p>To achieve this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service must:</p> <p><b>Identifying risk and gathering evidence</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. through its community risk management planning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. identify and understand its risk profile related to the built environment, including premises they need to regulate; and</li> <li>b. ensure <b>equity</b> of fire safety provision by considering the needs of the whole community.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>implement systems to</b> gather and maintain an accurate risk profile and supporting information about relevant premises in a manner that is compliant with legislation;</li> <li>3. make available information about premises to all employees who need it when required, allowing them to be informed, stay safe and effectively carry out their duties;</li> <li>4. ensure there is a mechanism for employees to feedback any new or emerging information or risks about buildings</li> </ol>

result of them carrying out their duties, to enable it to maintain an accurate risk profile;

**Decision making, planning and deployment of resources**

5. plan and deliver effective and robust protection activities to mitigate and reduce the risks identified through its [Community](#) risk management planning in compliance with the Regulator's Code and the principles of Better Regulation;
6. maintain an ability to deliver necessary statutory protection activities at all times;
7. plan and deliver engagement with those who are responsible for keeping relevant premises safe to provide advice and education in a constructive and helpful way on matters relating to fire safety, petroleum, and explosives legislation, including:
  - A. working to reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) that are generated from premises protected by automatic fire detection and fire alarm systems;
  - B. actively promoting and supporting Primary Authority Partnership schemes in compliance with relevant Primary Authority legislation, where appropriate; and

as a result of them carrying out their duties, to enable it to maintain an accurate risk profile;

**Decision making, planning and deployment of resources**

5. plan and deliver effective and robust protection activities **and interventions** to mitigate and reduce the risks identified through its **risk-based intervention programme** and community risk management planning in compliance with the Regulator's Code and the principles of Better Regulation;
6. maintain an ability to deliver necessary statutory protection activities **and interventions** at all times;
7. plan and deliver **both proactive and reactive engagement** with those ~~who are~~ responsible for keeping relevant premises **and communities** safe, to provide advice and education in a constructive and helpful way on matters relating to **protection activity and interventions**;
8. Respond to statutory and non-statutory consultations, in a timely and appropriate way;
9. collaborate with fire and rescue services and other partners to deliver protection and enforcement activities **and interventions**;

**Training, competence and capacity**

<p>C. ensuring <a href="#">Equality of Access</a> to fire safety provisions by removing communication barriers when issuing information, advice, or taking enforcement action.</p> <p>8. respond to statutory and non-statutory consultations, where the service is a regulator, in a timely and appropriate way;</p> <p>9. collaborate with fire and rescue services and other partners to deliver protection and enforcement activities in the most efficient and effective way possible;</p> <p><b>Training, competence and capacity</b></p> <p>10. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional protection workforce by</p> <p>A. adopting the Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators (the framework), where relevant to the role and embedding it into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials; and</p> <p>B. recording and monitoring competence.</p> <p>11. have in place necessary succession planning and processes to maintain a sustainable competent protection workforce;</p> <p>12. provide support to operational response employees and any other employees undertaking protection activities to build knowledge and understanding;</p>	<p>10. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional protection workforce by:</p> <p>a) adopting the Competence Framework for Fire Safety Regulators (the framework), where relevant to the role and embedding it into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials; and</p> <p>b) recording and monitoring competence, <b>to work towards third party accreditation.</b></p> <p>11. have in place necessary succession planning and processes to maintain a sustainable competent protection workforce;</p> <p>12. provide support to operational response employees and any other employees <b>who undertake</b> protection activities to build knowledge and understanding;</p> <p><b>Evaluation and improvement</b></p> <p>13. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of its protection activities <b>to drive improvement</b>; and</p> <p>14. generate a culture which embraces national and organisational learning allowing it to identify and capture feedback from a range of sources; evaluate, share and act upon it to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance;</p>
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<p><b>Evaluation and improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of its protection activities; and</li> <li>14. generate a culture which embraces national and organisational learning allowing it to identify and capture feedback from a range of sources; evaluate, share and act upon it to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance;</li> </ul> <p>Where Fire Investigation is managed within a fire and rescue service's protection function, a fire and rescue service <b>must</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. investigate, report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires, working with <a href="#">Others</a> when appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>Where Petroleum or Explosives regulation is managed within its protection function, a fire and rescue service <b>must</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. investigate, report on and learn from causes of petroleum and explosives related incidents.</li> </ul> <p>To support this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service <b>should</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Maximise opportunities gained from supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) network by sharing learning and</li> </ul>	<p>To support this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service <b>may</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. maximise opportunities gained from supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) network by sharing learning and experiences, collaborating with others and contributing to the continual improvement of fire protection activities;</li> <li>16. contribute and support national campaigns and initiatives, where appropriate and where resources are available.</li> </ul> <p>Where Petroleum or Explosives regulation is managed within its protection function, a fire and rescue service <b>must apply criteria 1 to 14 within this Standard</b>.</p>
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<p>experiences, collaborating with <a href="#">Others</a> and contributing to the continual improvement of fire protection activities;</p> <p>18. Contribute and support national campaigns and initiatives, where appropriate and where resources are available.</p>	
<b>Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction in incidents, injuries, and fatalities and improved Community safety due to services supporting businesses with compliance.</li> <li>2. Improved regulatory compliance relating to fire safety, petroleum, and explosives.</li> <li>3. Improved competency and capacity in the protection workforce.</li> <li>4. Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of protection activities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction in incidents, injuries, and fatalities and improved community safety due to services supporting businesses with compliance.</li> <li>2. <b>Reduced economic and social cost of fire within our communities.</b></li> <li>3. Improved regulatory compliance relating to <b>fire safety.</b></li> <li>4. Improved competency and capacity in the protection workforce.</li> <li>5. Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of protection activities.</li> </ol>
<b>Legal requirements or mandatory duties</b>	
<p>This Fire Standard reflects only the most appropriate legislation to this topic. We recognise that fire and rescue services must comply with a broader list of legislation to undertake their duties, which would be applicable to all standards. <a href="#">View the legislation which applies to all Fire Standards.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>It is recognised that fire and rescue services must comply with a broad list of legislation to undertake their duties. This Fire Standard reflects only the most appropriate legislation to this topic and should not be regarded as exhaustive. Much of the legislation that relates to this Fire Standard can be found on <a href="#">the webpage that describes legislation which applies to all Fire Standards.</a></b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Environment and Safety Information Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Explosives Regulations</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fire and Rescue National Framework for England</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Building Safety Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Construction (Design and Management) Regulations</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Police and Criminal Evidence Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulators Code</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act (CPIA)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act</a></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order</a> as amended <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">Fire Safety Act</a></li> <li>b. <a href="#">Fire Safety (England) Regulations</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <a href="#">Environment and Safety Information Act</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">The Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">The Explosives Regulations</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Building Safety Act</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">Construction (Design and Management) Regulations</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Police and Criminal Evidence Act</a></li> <li>9. <a href="#">Regulators Code</a></li> <li>10. <a href="#">Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act (CPIA)</a></li> <li>11. <a href="#">Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act</a></li> <li>12. <a href="#">Victims of Crime Code of Practice</a></li> <li>13. <a href="#">Licensing Act</a></li> <li>14. <a href="#">Building Act</a></li> </ol>
<b>Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics Fire Standard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard</a></li> <li>• Apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Fire Safety Advisor</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Fire Safety Inspector</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Fire Safety Engineer</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Fire Investigation Fire Standard</a></li> </ul>	<b>Related Fire Standards</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <a href="#">Code of Ethics Fire Standard</a></li> <li>b) <a href="#">Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard</a></li> <li>c) <a href="#">Fire Investigation Fire Standard</a></li> <li>d) <a href="#">Prevention Fire Standard</a></li> <li>e) <a href="#">Internal Governance and Assurance Fire Standard</a></li> </ol>

- [Prevention Fire Standard](#)
- **For all buildings regulated under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005:**
  - Non-Fire Safety Specialist personnel – appropriate fire safety training
  - Fire Safety Advisor – Level 3 Certificate in Fire Safety
  - Fire Safety Inspector – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
  - Fire Safety Competent Manager – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
  - Fire Engineering Design Technician – Level 5 Diploma in Fire Safety Engineering Design
  - Fire Safety Engineer – Level 6 Degree in Fire Safety Engineering and/or MSc/MEng in Fire Safety Engineering
  - Senior Fire Safety Engineer – Level 7 MSc/MEng in Fire Safety Engineering (or equivalent) and Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council.
- **For Higher Risk Premises:**
  - Fire Safety Inspector – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety and relevant registration with a professional body
  - Fire Safety Competent Manager – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety and relevant registration with a professional body
  - Fire Engineering Design Technician – Level 5 Diploma in Fire Engineering Design and registration as an Engineering Technician with the Engineering Council.
  - Fire Safety Engineer – Level 6 Degree in Fire Engineering and/or MSc/MEng in Fire Engineering and actively working towards Incorporated or Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council.

- f) [Leading the Service Fire Standard](#)
- g) [Leading and Developing People Fire Standard](#)
- h) [Communications and Engagement Fire Standard](#)
- i) [Data Management Fire Standard](#)
- j) [Fire Control](#)
- k) [Operational Preparedness](#)
- l) [Operational Competence](#)
- m) [Operational Learning](#)

#### Qualifications:

- Apprenticeships:
  - [Fire Safety Advisor](#)
  - [Fire Safety Inspector](#)
  - [Fire Safety Engineer](#)
- Level 3 Certificate in Fire Safety
- Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
- Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
- Level 5 Diploma in Fire Safety Engineering Design
- Level 6 Degree in Fire Safety Engineering and/or MSc/MEng in Fire Safety Engineering
- Level 7 MSc/MEng in Fire Safety Engineering (or equivalent)

#### Accreditations:

There are professional bodies supporting independent validation of competence for fire safety professionals, this includes – but is not



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Fire Safety Engineer – Level 7 MSc/MEng in Fire Safety Engineering (or equivalent) and Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council.</li> </ul>	<p>limited to – Institution of Fire Engineers.</p>
<p><b>Guidance and supporting information</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Work Related Death Protocol (WRDP)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fire and Rescue National Framework for England</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Practice (Fire Investigation)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Unwanted Fire Signals – NFCC</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NFCC Primary Authority Partnerships</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Competence Framework for Fire Safety Regulators</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Protection Guidance - NFCC</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guidance and regulation - GOV.UK</a> – Article 50</li> </ul>