BOARD PAPER

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Item Number	Item 4 - Paper 1
Title of Paper	Fire Standards Board Approvals
Decision or Information	Decision
Date of Meeting	17 September 2025
Presented by	Fire Standards Team
Attachments	Appendix A – Fire Investigation Approval Paper Appendix B – Community Risk Management Post Consultation Report Appendix C – Emergency Response Driver Approval Paper

Summary

The Fire Standards Board is in the process of reviewing Fire Standards that have been published for three or more years and have reached the agreed review date. The Fire Standards Team presents the following Fire Standards and their accompanying reports with findings for decision:

- Fire Investigation. Seeking approval to publish amendments.
- Community Risk Management Planning. Seeking approval to publish amendments.
- Emergency Response Driver. Seeking approval to publish amendments.

The Board is asked to review the papers found in each of the Appendices and confirm their decision.

APPENDIX A - FIRE INVESTIGATION FIRE STANDARD

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

The Board is asked to:

- note the contents of this report;
- approve the proposed changes to the Fire Investigation Fire Standard and confirm its publication onto the Fire Standards Board website.

Purpose

This report contains information on the process in which the Fire Investigation Fire Standard was reviewed, the findings and subsequent proposed amendments.

The report has been produced for the Fire Standards Board (FSB) to provide assurance and confidence in the approach taken.

Review Process

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard was published in March 2022, with its periodic review scheduled to take place in Spring 2025. The review commenced in August 2025.

The review followed the agreed FSB Maintenance Review Process. A working group was established with help from the NFCC Fire Investigation Lead at the time, London Fire Brigade Deputy Commissioner, Charlie Pugsley. The group consisted of members who worked at a senior level within Fire Investigation teams in their respective services.

The working group reviewed each section of the Fire Standard, considering the following:

- The currency of the content – e.g. did the standard accurately cover the topic? Were there lessons learnt from more recently published first standards that could be included in this one?
- Were there any new legislation, guidance or qualifications that impacted the content within the standard?
- Were the benefits appropriate and measurable?

Working Group Members

The working group consisted of Fire Investigation leads from across Fire and Rescue Services within England, Scotland, and Wales. The services represented amongst the group were:

- West Midlands
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- Northumberland
- London
- Scotland
- Cambridgeshire

Findings

The working group considered some of the lessons learned by the Fire Standards team in developing the full suite of Fire Standards. The group felt that the original outcome statement was generally still correct and appropriate. They suggested four minor changes to wording within the Desired Outcome which improved consistency within the Standard and reflected a change in legislation from accreditation to compliance.

A discussion took place on the key themes that are reflected across the suite of standards with the group consensus being equality, diversity and inclusion, health and wellbeing, organisational learning, and productivity and efficiency were already sufficiently covered. They did however feel there was opportunity to include a 'To Achieve this Fire Standard' point around environment and sustainability to support the increasing availability of technology in the sector.

Proposed Amendments to the Fire Investigation Fire Standard

Following the review, the group agreed to the following proposed amendments:

Desired Outcome

The group were largely happy with the desired outcome and made only a few minor changes to improve consistently and reflect legislation changes:

- Amendment: to include economic wellbeing to the community within the opening paragraph to reflect the community risk management planning standard and to highlight the broader benefits of fire investigation. As with the CRMP Fire Standard, the term 'economic wellbeing' will be added to the glossary to ensure clarity of understanding.
- Amendment: the inclusion of 'and development' in bullet point one to reflect the previous paragraph of the desired outcome.
- Amendment: a change in wording from accreditation to compliance in the closing paragraph to reflect a change in legislation.
- Amendment: a change in wording in the closing paragraph to 'supporting police investigations' from 'undertaking investigations of deliberately caused fires' to reflect the broader work fire investigation teams undertake.

To Achieve This Fire Standard

The group were largely happy with this section and included two new points to achieve consistency with other standards, and incorporate a theme not yet reflected.

- New point: the group opted to include a new opening 'to achieve this standard' point to align with other standards and emphasise the importance of having a strategic approach to the function that supports the wider service goals and objectives.
- Amendment: to include recording information in point 4 alongside collating and analysing it.

- Amendment: point 5 stemmed some discussion around the capacity to quality assure all gathered information across varying service structures. To ensure the point is achievable for all services the group requested a change in wording to 'ensure all requested information is quality assured'. The group felt this would provide a good standard and would not stop services assuring all information where they have capacity to do so.
- Amendment: a small change in wording is proposed to point 11 to reflect where equipment is supplied by partner agencies.
- Amendment: a small change in wording is proposed for point 12 to reflect the need for ongoing support to employees.
- New point: the group proposed the following point to reflect the increase in use of technology to improve sustainability and efficiency:
    16. utilise new and emerging technology to:
        A. improve sustainability
        B. reduce environmental impacts
        C. improve productivity and efficiency
        D. support continuous improvement and organisational learning

Expected Benefits of Achieving the Fire Standard

Benefit 1 was re-worded for clarity to:

- Improved community safety and wellbeing **through fire investigation activities which** identify risk, leading to a reduction in incidents, injuries and fatalities.

Benefit 6 was re-worded for consistency to:

- Increased **confidence** to the community, police forces, justice systems and other interested parties on the outcomes of fire investigations.

Legal Requirements (mandatory duty)

New legislation was added:

- Fire and Rescue Service Act Section 45/46

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

The following Fire Standard was added:
- Operational Learning

New qualifications were added along with an opening statement for clarity:
- A variety of professional and accrediting bodies provide the below qualifications:
    - Level 7 Advance Professional Certificate in Investigative Practice
    - Expert Witness Certificate

One qualification was removed:

- ISO 17020 inspections: Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

Guidance and supporting information

There were no changes proposed to the guidance and supporting information section.

Communications Plan

Objective and message: Make identified FRS workforce members aware of approved changes to Fire Investigation Fire Standard
Timing: Following the Board's approval, the approved Fire Standard will be published and communications issued.
Audience: Due to minimal changes to the standard, communications should be limited to those impacted directly. These have been identified as the following groups:

Audience	**Method/Platform**
Heads of Fire Investigation	Email NFCC Connect
Improvement Committee	Committee Paper
Fire Investigation Workforce	NFCC Connect Fire Standard Workshops
Fire Standards Board Website Users	News article on FSB Website

Conclusion

The Fire Standards team has shared the proposed changes with NFCC Fire Investigation Lead and Deputy Commissioner for London Fire Brigade, Charlie Pugsley who agreed to the changes proposed. As DCFO Pugsley is due to retire imminently from his role, the proposed amendments were also shared with the incoming NFCC Fire Investigation Lead, Matt Jones, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, South Wales FRS. The working group advised that the proposed changes were minor and therefore would not recommend a consultation, to which both Deputy Commissioner Pugsley and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jones also agreed.

The Fire Standards team is in agreement with the recommendation set out by Deputy Commissioner Pugsley and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jones and is of the opinion that while two additional points have been included to the 'to achieve this standard' section, the proposed changes to the Fire Investigation Fire Standard fall into the moderate change category. They

therefore recommend that the standard should be approved by the Fire Standards Board before being published to the website with comprehensive communications to clarify the changes.

The Fire Standards Team has developed a comprehensive communications plan (see section above) to ensure the changes are clearly communicated to and understood by all.

The Board is asked to approve the publication of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard.

The below table shows the original Fire Investigation Fire Standard which was published in 2022 in the left column. The right column shows the proposed changes to the Fire Investigation Fire Standard as a result of the workshop held with Fire Investigation practitioners in August 2025. Notable changes have been highlighted in red. Minor changes where text may have been moved have not been highlighted.

Title of Standard	Fire Investigation
Review Date	August 2025
CURRENT FIRE STANDARD	**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRE INVESTIGATION FIRE STANDARD**
Desired Outcome	
A fire and rescue service that delivers effective, efficient and Valid fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fire to continually improve the safety of its community and its employees. It has a competent and resilient capability to undertake fire investigations, either through direct employment or in collaboration with other services. It works with Interested parties so that investigations are consistently conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation, guidance and codes of practice and conduct. A service that effectively collates and analyses information obtained through the fire investigation process which leads to: • a better understanding of the origin and cause of fire; • a better understanding of how buildings and people behave in relation to fire; • the identification of risks to inform its Community Risk Management Planning and contribute to the improvement of its prevention and protection strategies; • improvements to firefighter safety and operational response;	A fire and rescue service that delivers effective, efficient and valid fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fire to continually improve the safety and economic wellbeing of its community and its employees. It has a competent and resilient capability to undertake fire investigations, either through direct employment or in collaboration with other services. It works with interested parties so that investigations are consistently conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation, guidance and codes of practice and conduct. A service that effectively collates and analyses information obtained through the fire investigation process which leads to: • a better understanding of the origin, cause, and development of fire; • a better understanding of how buildings and people behave in relation to fire; • the identification of risks to inform its Community Risk Management Planning and contribute to the improvement of its prevention and protection strategies;

• the identification and sharing of learning to continually improve local and national fire investigation practices; and • better support Justice system processes and other Interested parties or agencies, where appropriate. A service, through having achieved the appropriate accreditation when required, may support the criminal justice system by undertaking investigations of deliberately caused fires. It may do this in conjunction with police crime scene investigators, other Interested parties or both.	• improvements to firefighter safety and operational response; • the identification and sharing of learning to continually improve local and national fire investigation practices; and • better support for justice system processes and other interested parties or agencies, where appropriate. A service, through having achieved the appropriate compliance when required, may support the criminal justice system by supporting police investigations. It may do this in conjunction with police crime scene investigators, other interested parties or both.
What is required to meet the Fire Standard	
A fire and rescue service **must**: 1. investigate the cause and origin of fires, complying with the appropriate codes of practice and conduct, where relevant to the level of fire investigation it carries out. These may be: a) non-complex fire scenes (Tier 1 fire investigation); and/or b) complex fire scenes and non-terrorist explosions (Tier 2 fire investigation) 2. report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires, working with others when appropriate, to: a) ensure its local risk profile remains current by building a comprehensive understanding of existing, emerging and future risks within its community;	A fire and rescue service **must**: 1. have a strategic approach to fire investigation that links to wider service goals and objectives 2. investigate the cause, origin and development of fires, complying with the appropriate codes of practice and conduct, where relevant to the tier of fire investigation it carries out. These may be: a) non-complex fire scenes (tier 1 fire investigation); and/or b) complex fire scenes and non-terrorist explosions (tier 2 fire investigation) 3. report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires, working with others when appropriate, to:

b) contribute to the continual improvement of prevention, protection and operational response activities, at both local and national level; and c) contribute to and support national fire safety campaigns 3. collate and analyse information gathered during fire investigation work and be able to present it to a variety of Interested parties , in a timely manner 4. ensure all information gathered is quality assured 5. undertake workforce planning, including succession planning, to clarify the resources required to maintain a fire investigation capability equipped to conduct effective fire investigations and associated work 6. collaborate with other fire and rescue services and Interested parties to deliver fire investigation activities in the most efficient, effective and valid way possible 7. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional fire investigation workforce by: a) aligning to the NFCC Fire Investigation Competency Framework; b) embedding the appropriate codes of practice and conduct into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials; and c) recording and monitoring competence	a) ensure its local risk profile remains current by building a comprehensive understanding of existing, emerging and future risks within its community; b) contribute to the continual improvement of prevention, protection and operational response activities, at both local and national level; and c) contribute to and support national fire safety campaigns 4. collate, analyse and record information gathered during fire investigation work and be able to present it to a variety of interested parties , in a timely manner 5. ensure all requested information is quality assured 6. undertake workforce planning, including succession planning, to clarify the resources required to maintain a fire investigation capability equipped to conduct effective fire investigations and associated work 7. collaborate with other fire and rescue services and interested parties to deliver fire investigation activities in the most efficient, effective and valid way possible 8. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional fire investigation workforce by: a) aligning to the NFCC Fire Investigation Competency Framework;

8. provide ongoing training and sufficient support during working hours that encourages and enables its fire investigators to: a) maintain competence appropriate to their role; b) maintain compliance with appropriate legislation, codes of practice and conduct relating to fire investigation and forensic guidance; c) undertake role related administrative duties and reporting obligations associated with the role; and d) maintain continuous professional development 9. where it carries out Tier 2 fire investigations and its fire investigators prepare and present evidence for the justice systems, it: a) provides specialist training to fire investigation employees to enable them to effectively present their evidence in a range of court environments; and b) ensures fire investigation employees remain compliant with the relevant legislation and codes of practice 10. supply the appropriate equipment for fire investigators to effectively carry out their role 11. provide post-incident mental and physical health and wellbeing support to its fire investigators 12. demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity of its community and providing Equality of Access to fire investigation services	b) embedding the appropriate codes of practice and conduct into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials; and c) recording and monitoring competence 9. provide ongoing training and sufficient support during working hours that encourages and enables its fire investigators to: a) maintain competence appropriate to their role; b) maintain compliance with appropriate legislation, codes of practice and conduct relating to fire investigation and forensic guidance; c) undertake role related administrative duties and reporting obligations associated with the role; and d) maintain continuous professional development 10. where it carries out tier 2 fire investigations and its fire investigators prepare and present evidence for the justice systems, it: a) provides specialist training to fire investigation employees to enable them to effectively present their evidence in a range of court environments; and b) ensures fire investigation employees remain compliant with the relevant legislation and codes of practice 11. ensure the appropriate equipment is supplied for fire investigators to effectively carry out their role

13. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of its fire investigation activities 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 this feedback to drive innovation, continuous improvement and enhance future performance	12. provide and monitor mental and physical health and wellbeing support to its fire investigators 13. demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity of its community and providing equality of access to fire investigation services 14. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of its fire investigation activities 15. 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 this feedback to drive innovation, continuous improvement and enhance future performance 16. utilise new and emerging technology to: A. improve sustainability B. reduce environmental impacts C. improve productivity and efficiency D. support continuous improvement and organisational learning
Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard	
1. Improved community safety and wellbeing as a consequence of identifying risk and communicating product safety issues, leading to a reduction in incidents, injuries and fatalities. 2. Improved safety, mental health and wellbeing of employees. 3. Improved competency in the fire investigation workforce.	1. Improved community safety and wellbeing through fire investigation activities which identify risk, leading to a reduction in incidents, injuries and fatalities. 2. Improved safety, mental health and wellbeing of employees. 3. Improved competency in the fire investigation workforce.

4. Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of fire investigation activities. 5. Improved targeting of Prevention and Protection activities through learning derived from fire investigation. 6. Increased level of assurance to the community, police forces, justice systems and other Interested parties on the outcomes of fire investigations. 7. Improved consistency in approach to fire investigation across fire and rescue services in England, contributing to improved collaboration and sharing of learning.	4. Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of fire investigation activities. 5. Improved targeting of Prevention and Protection activities through learning derived from fire investigation. 6. Increased confidence to the community, police forces, justice systems and other interested parties on the outcomes of fire investigations. 7. Improved consistency in approach to fire investigation across fire and rescue services, contributing to improved collaboration and sharing of learning.
Legal requirements or mandatory duties	
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. View the legislation which applies to all Fire Standards. • Policing and Crime Act • Forensic Science Regulator Act • Criminal Procedure Rules • Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act • Civil Procedure Rules • Police and Criminal Evidence Act	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 the webpage that describes legislation which applies to all Fire Standards. • Fire and Rescue Service Act Section 45/46 • Policing and Crime Act • Forensic Science Regulator Act • Criminal Procedure Rules • Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act • Civil Procedure Rules • Police and Criminal Evidence Act
Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards	

• Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard • Protection Fire Standard • Prevention Fire Standard • Code of Ethics Fire Standard • Introduction to Fire Investigation – Level 2 • Level 5 Award in Fire Investigation: Theory and Practice • Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation • ISO 17020 inspections: Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection	• Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard • Protection Fire Standard • Prevention Fire Standard • Code of Ethics Fire Standard • Operational Learning A variety of professional and accrediting bodies provide the below qualifications: • Introduction to Fire Investigation – Level 2 • Level 5 Award in Fire Investigation: Theory and Practice • Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation • Level 7 Advance Professional Certificate in Investigative Practice • Expert Witness Certificate
Guidance and supporting information	
• Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Justice Systems in the UK • NFCC Fire Investigation competency framework document • Forensic Science Regulator's: codes of practice and conduct	• Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Justice Systems in the UK • NFCC Fire Investigation competency framework document • Forensic Science Regulator's: codes of practice and conduct

APPENDIX B – COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Community Risk Management Planning (CRMP) Feedback Summary

The Board is asked to:

- note the contents of this report;
- approve the proposed changes to the CRMP Fire Standard and confirm its publication onto the Fire Standards Board website.

This report contains details from the consultation and subsequent analysis on the CRMP Fire Standard which took place in June 2025

The report provides an overview of the process undertaken and amendments that have been made to the Fire Standard based on the consultation feedback. The report has been produced for the Fire Standards Board (Board or FSB) to provide assurance and confidence in the approach taken.

Promoting the Consultation

The consultation survey was hosted on the Fire Standards Board's website.

The stakeholders for consultation were identified and they were notified about the consultation through several communication channels:

- Various NFCC Workplace groups
- Via direct email message

All identified stakeholders, including CRMP Practitioner groups were engaged throughout the process and were contacted by email to notify them of the consultation.

Response to the Fire Standard Consultation

A total of 20 responses were received, including 18 from services within England. Responding services include:

Bedfordshire	Dorset & Wiltshire	London Fire Brigade
Cheshire	East Sussex	Merseyside
Cleveland	Essex	Norfolk
County Durham and Darlington	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Warwickshire
Cumbria	Kent	West Sussex
Devon & Somerset	Lincolnshire	West Yorkshire

Responses were also received from the organisations below:

- Fire Brigades Union
- City of Novi Fire Department- Michigan USA

Consultation Responses

56 comments were analysed, several which contained multiple points and opinions. Each of these have been reviewed and categorised into the following categories:

a. Agreed
b. Partially agreed
c. Noted
d. Declined

The consultation feedback provided covered a range of topics including:

- Control rooms;
- Reintroduction of prevention, protection and response;
- Clarity of language.

Amendments suggested by respondents that were **declined** included topics such as:

- Changing terminology which is already consistent with the other Fire Standards or already produced guidance
- Specific inclusion of control room contribution, which the group agreed was important but did not need to be spelled out within the standard;
- Too much detail requested around certain topics which is not consistent with the high-level information that should be presented in a Fire Standard, much of this is included in the underpinning guidance
- Removal of the contribution CRMP has on the economic wellbeing of the community. Respondents were not clear what was meant by this and wished for it to be removed. The group felt it was important to remain in the standard but agreed a definition would support understanding.

Modifications to the Fire Standard

Following analysis of the consultation feedback amendments were made to the draft Fire Standard. The amendments made are as follows (new additions in red):

Desired Outcome

1. "A fire and rescue service that keeps its community and employees safe from harm and contributes to the economic wellbeing of society" was amended to clarify meaning. In addition, a definition of economic wellbeing has been defined and will be published alongside the standard.
2. "These processes support evidenced, transparent and inclusive decision making to mitigate identified risks through its prevention, protection, response (including fire control) and resilience activities." These activities were reintroduced as they were considered key elements of the CRMP and should not be lost.
3. The second paragraph was re-ordered for clarity and ease of reading.

To Achieve This Fire Standard

1. "Identify and describe the existing and emerging local, regional, national and global hazards it faces, the hazardous events that could arise and the risk groups (People, Place, Environment and Economy) that could be harmed;" Feedback stated it was important to be aware of and mitigate against global trends and hazards where relevant.
2. Rewording of point 10 to clarify what was required in regard to management of assets "Consider its sustainability impact, including ensuring that assets remain fit for purpose for their entire lifecycle, providing resilience to the service and value for money to the public;"

Expected Benefits of Achieving the Fire Standard

1. New benefit: Better value for money for the public through evidence-based decisions and effective financial planning;
2. Benefits 3-6 were reworded so they were clear and measurable:
   a) Improved information sharing, evaluation of activities and sharing of good practice because of a standardised use of data and business intelligence;
   b) Improved cross border, collaborative and national working because of a standardised and nationally approved approach to community risk management planning;
   c) Improved deployment decisions because they are evidence-based, inclusive, transparent and target resources in an efficient and effective manner to mitigate community, firefighter and economic risk; and
   d) Improved community risk management plans because of effective consultation and engagement activities.
3. Benefit 7 *"Community risk management plans that can withstand the requirements of external scrutiny and inspection"* was removed as it was felt that this was an advantage of achieving the Fire Standard, but not necessarily a benefit.

Legal Requirements and Mandatory Duties

The following legislation was removed or moved to another section:

1. National Risk Register (moved to guidance section)
2. Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (covered in overarching legislation page)
3. Data Protection Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
4. Localism Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
5. Civil Contingencies Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
6. Fire and Rescue Services Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
7. Local Government Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
8. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (covered in overarching legislation page)
9. Human Rights Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
10. Health and Safety at Work Act (covered in overarching legislation page)
11. National Operational Guidance (moved to the guidance section)

Guidance and Supporting Information

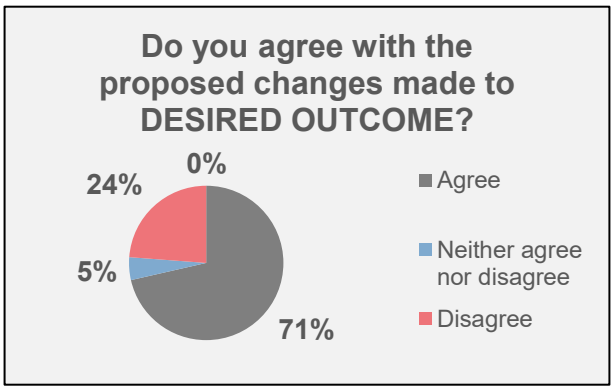
The following guidance was added:

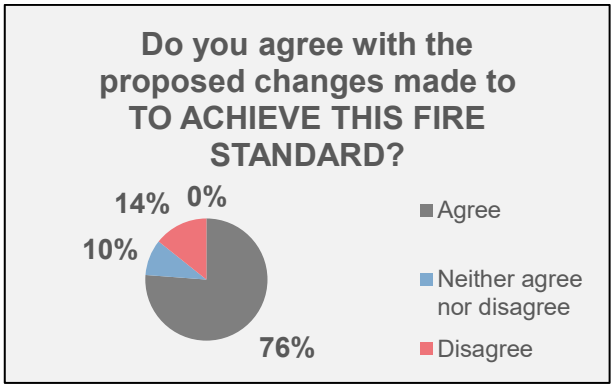
1. NFCC Operational Guidance (moved from legislation section)

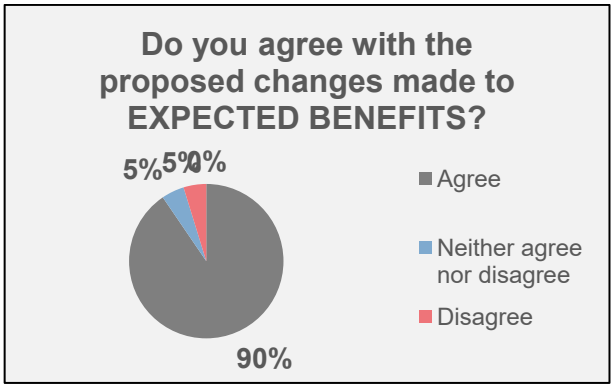
2. NFCC Competency Frameworks for community risk management planning
3. NFCC Data and Business Intelligence Guidance
4. NFCC Defining Scope
5. NFCC Hazard Identification Guidance
6. NFCC Risk Analysis Guidance
7. NFCC National Risk Methodology for Domestic Dwelling Fires
8. NFCC National Risk Methodology for Road Traffic Collisions
9. NFCC Economic and Social Value of Fire Report
10. NFCC CRMP Decision Making Guidance
11. NFCC Stakeholder and Public Engagement Guidance
12. NFCC Equality Impact Assessment Guidance and Tools
13. NFCC Evaluation Methodology
14. NFCC Evaluation Methods Data Analysis
15. NFCC CRMP Process Evaluation Guidance
16. The Gunning Principles for Public Consultations
17. The Orange Book: Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts (HMG)
18. The Magenta Book - Central Government Guidance on evaluation (HMG)
19. The Aqua Book: guidance on producing quality analysis (HMG)
20. National Risk Register
21. Chronic Risks Analysis
22. Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

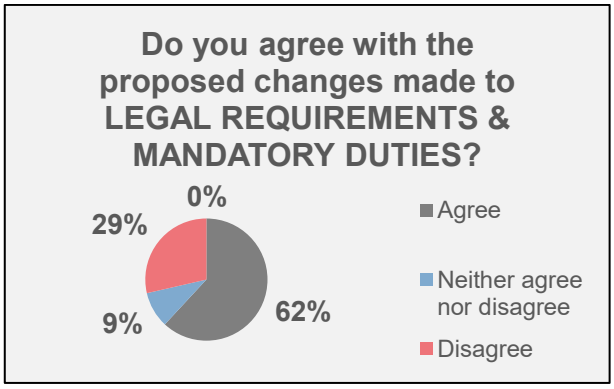
Consultation Questions – Summary of Responses

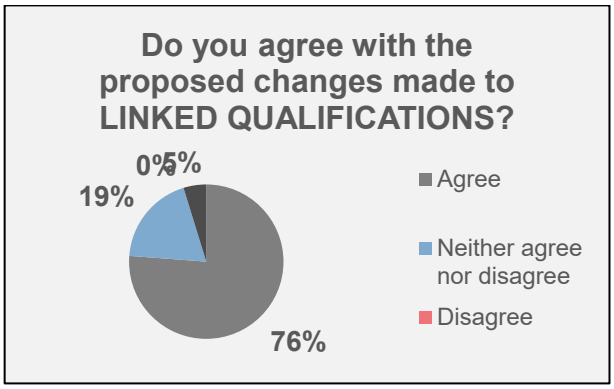
Responses to questions on the content of the Fire Standard are summarised below.

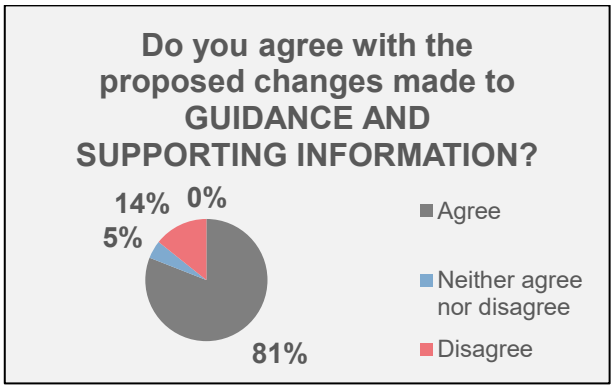












Communications Plan

Objective and message: Make identified FRS workforce members aware of approved changes to Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard
Timing: Following the Board's approval, the approved Fire Standard will be published and communications issued.
Audience: Due to a number of changes to the standard, communications should be directed to:

- those impacted directly;
- Senior colleagues within services;
- Those interested in Fire Standards (FSB Mailing list); and
- Those who responded to the consultation but who do not work in a service.

These have been identified as the following groups:

Audience	**Method/Platform**
CRMP Practitioner Group (includes all CRMP Practitioners across UK FRS)	Email
Improvement Committee	Committee Paper
CRMP workforce	Connect
Fire Standards Single Point of Contact (these tend to be area managers/strategic leads and above)	Email Communication with NFCC Implementation Team who will disperse information
Fire Standards Board Website Users	News article on FSB Website and email to FSB Mailing List

Conclusion

The subsequent amendments to the CRMP Fire Standard were shared with the wider CRMP Practitioner Group and with NFCC Lead for CRMP, Nikki Richards who all confirmed they were content with the amendments.

The Board is now asked to approve the CRMP Fire Standard for publication and the included communications plan.

APPENDIX B – COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Original CRMP Fire Standard Published in May 2021	Post-Consultation Proposals Jul 2025 Pre-consultation changes are in red Post-consultation changes are in blue
Desired Outcome	
A fire and rescue service that assesses foreseeable community related risks and uses this knowledge to decide how those risks will be mitigated. A service carrying out community risk management planning will: • Be able to demonstrate how protection, prevention and response activities have and will be used collectively to prevent and/or mitigate fires and other incidents to reduce the impact on its communities (including Business), firefighters and to promote economic wellbeing; • Effectively consult and engage (in line with its governance arrangements) with communities, FRS staff and stakeholders at appropriate stages of the community risk management planning process; • Use a robust risk analysis process (giving due regard to existing and emerging local, regional and national hazards) to support evidenced, transparent and inclusive decision-making regarding resource deployment; • Ensure resource deployment decisions are balanced against an assessment of internal and external resource availability (including collaborative and cross-border working opportunities	A fire and rescue service that keeps its community and employees safe from harm and ~~promotes~~ contributes to the economic wellbeing of society through robust risk planning which assesses foreseeable community related risks. These processes support evidenced, transparent and inclusive decision making to mitigate identified risks through its prevention, protection, response (including fire control) and resilience activities. To understand its community related risks and build its community risk management plan, it actively consults and engages (in line with its governance arrangements) with its communities, employees, representative bodies and other stakeholders. The service is aware of its impact on the environment and considers sustainability whilst providing value for money. A service that is resilient because core services are shielded against business disruption that may result from major incidents, spate incidents or business continuity events. Resources, including people, money and assets, are deployed effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of the service's community.

and via national resilience) and other key organisational influences that inform the overall strategic planning process; and • Create, and be able to evidence, its community risk management plan in line with a nationally approved structure which involves the key components detailed within this standard.	The service works effectively across borders, with other agencies, key organisational influences and via National Resilience to inform the overall strategic planning process.
What is Required To Meet this Fire Standard	
A fire and rescue service must: 1. Utilise and share accurate data and business intelligence (from both internal and external sources) to support key activities such as evidence-based decision making, horizon scanning, cross-border risk identification and organisational learning; 2. Ensure transparency in the community risk management planning process through either implementing and/or supporting ongoing engagement and formal consultation processes, ensuring these are accessible and publicly available; 3. Ensure that organisational decisions and the measures implemented support equality, diversity, inclusivity, are non-discriminatory and are people impact assessed; 4. Meet its legislative, framework and governance requirements linked to community risk management; 5. Be able to evidence its external and internal operating environment and the strategic objectives the community risk management plan is seeking to achieve; 6. Utilise and share accurate data and business intelligence (from both internal and external sources) to support key activities such	A fire and rescue service must: 1. Clearly define a senior person who has overall accountability for the community risk management plan and responsibility for the various components contained within it; 2. Ensure transparency in the community risk management planning process through either implementing and/or supporting ongoing engagement and formal consultation processes, ensuring these are accessible and publicly available; 3. Ensure that organisational decisions and the measures implemented support equality, diversity, inclusivity, are non-discriminatory and are people impact assessed; 4. Meet its legislative, framework and governance requirements linked to community risk management; 5. Be able to evidence its external and internal operating environment and the strategic objectives the community risk management plan is seeking to achieve; 6. Utilise and share accurate data and business intelligence (from both internal and external sources) to support key activities such as evidence-based decision making, horizon scanning, cross-border risk identification and organisational learning;

as evidence-based decision making, horizon scanning, cross-border risk identification and organisational learning; 7. Identify and describe the existing and emerging local, regional and national hazards it faces, the hazardous events that could arise and the risk groups (People, Place, Environment and Economy) that could be harmed; 8. Analyse risk to consider its risk appetite, determine the risk levels and prioritise risk accordingly; 9. Make decisions about the deployment of resources based on the prioritised risk levels and planning assumptions involved. This should be carried out with consideration of internal and external resource availability (people, financial and physical) including collaborative, cross-border and national resilience assistance. Consideration should also be given to other strategic influences such as consultation feedback, stakeholder engagement and political objectives; 10. Continually evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and delivery of the community risk management plan and the organisational impact of risk management decisions; 11. Be able to clearly define who has overall accountability for the community risk management plan and responsibility for the various components contained within it; and 12. Provide training and/or support (where required) to all who are involved in the development, management and implementation of the community risk management plan.	7. Identify and describe the existing and emerging local, regional, national and global hazards it faces, the hazardous events that could arise and the risk groups (People, Place, Environment and Economy) that could be harmed; 8. Analyse risks and trends to consider its risk appetite, determine the risk levels and prioritise risk accordingly; 9. Make decisions about the deployment of resources based on the prioritised risk levels and planning assumptions involved. This should be carried out with consideration of internal and external resource availability (people, financial and physical) including collaborative, cross-border and National Resilience assistance. Consideration should also be given to other strategic influences such as consultation feedback, stakeholder engagement and political objectives; 10. Consider its sustainability impact, including ensuring that assets remain fit for purpose for their entire lifecycle, providing resilience to the service and value for money to the public; 11. Continually evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and delivery of the community risk management plan and the organisational impact of risk management decisions; 12. Provide training and/or support (where required) to all who are involved in the development, management and implementation of the community risk management plan. 13. Take a strategic approach to managing finance and budgets aligned to the risk, vision and resourcing requirements of the service to deliver value for money for the public.
Expected Benefits	

1. National approach and improved understanding in the development and evidence base of local community risk management planning; 2. Improved standardisation in the use of data and business intelligence within community risk management planning will aid information sharing, evaluation of activities and sharing of good practice; 3. Standardised and nationally approved approach to Community Risk Management planning will help to maximise the efficiency of cross border, collaborative and national working opportunities. 4. Evidenced, inclusive and transparent resource deployment decisions that target FRS resources in an efficient and effective manner to mitigate community, firefighter and economic risk; 5. Through effective consultation and engagement communities, FRS staff and other stakeholders will be able to understand, scrutinise and/or influence risk management objectives and plans; and 6. Community risk management plans that can withstand the requirements of external scrutiny and inspection.	4. Better value for money for the public through evidence-based decisions and effective financial planning; 5. Improved understanding in the development and evidence base of local community risk management planning; 6. Improved information sharing, evaluation of activities and sharing of good practice because of a standardised use of data and business intelligence; 7. Improved cross border, collaborative and national working because of a standardised and nationally approved approach to community risk management planning; 8. Improved deployment decisions because they are evidence-based, inclusive, transparent and target resources in an efficient and effective manner to mitigate community, firefighter and economic risk; and 9. Improved community risk management plans because of effective consultation and engagement activities.
Legal Requirements and Mandatory Duties	
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. View the legislation which applies to all Fire Standards.	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 the webpage that describes legislation which applies to all Fire Standards.

1. National Risk Register 2. Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 3. Data Protection Act 4. Policing and Crime Act 5. Chapter 4 – Local Responder Risk Assessment Duty 6. Localism Act 7. Equality Act 8. The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 9. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 10. Civil Contingencies Act 11. Fire and Rescue Services Act 12. Local Government Act 13. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 14. Human Rights Act 15. Health and Safety at Work Act 16. National Operational Guidance	The additional legislation listed below must be complied with when undertaking community risk management planning: 1. Policing and Crime Act 2. Chapter 4 - Local Responder Risk Assessment Duty 3. The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 4. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 5. Accounts and Auditing Regulations 6. Internal Financial Regulations
Linked Qualifications, Accreditations or Fire Standards	
Currently there are no specific or linked qualifications and accreditations for this Fire Standard, however future projects are being scoped regarding competencies linked to CRMP processes.	Currently there are no specific or linked qualifications and accreditations for this Fire Standard. However, future projects are being scoped regarding competencies linked to CRMP processes. **Fire Standards** Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Fire Standard Fire Control Fire Standard Operational Competence Fire Standard

	Operational Preparedness Fire Standard Operational Learning Fire Standard
Guidance and Supporting Information	
1. Community Risk Management Planning Strategic Framework 2. Glossary of risk-related terms 3. Definition of Risk 4. National review of Community Risk Management methodologies across UK fire and rescue services Further detailed guidance will be forthcoming and will be hosted on www.ukfrs.com to support fire and rescue services in the development of their community risk management plans.	1. NFCC Operational Guidance 2. NFCC Community Risk Management Planning Strategic Framework 3. NFCC National Review of Community Risk methodology 4. NFCC Competency Frameworks for community risk management planning 5. NFCC Definition of Risk 6. NFCC Data and Business Intelligence Guidance 7. NFCC Defining Scope 8. NFCC Hazard Identification Guidance 9. NFCC Risk Analysis Guidance 10. NFCC National Risk Methodology for Domestic Dwelling Fires 11. NFCC National Risk Methodology for Road Traffic Collisions 12. NFCC Economic and Social Value of Fire Report 13. NFCC CRMP Decision Making Guidance 14. NFCC Stakeholder and Public Engagement Guidance 15. NFCC Equality Impact Assessment Guidance and Tools 16. NFCC Evaluation Methodology 17. NFCC Evaluation Methods Data Analysis 18. NFCC CRMP Process Evaluation Guidance 19. NFCC Glossary of risk-related terms 20. The Gunning Principles for Public Consultations 21. The Orange Book: Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts (HMG)

	22. The Magenta Book - Central Government Guidance on evaluation (HMG) 23. The Aqua Book: guidance on producing quality analysis (HMG) 24. National Risk Register 25. Chronic Risks Analysis 26. Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

APPENDIX C – EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRIVING FIRE STANDARD

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Purpose

This report contains information on the Emergency Response Driving (ERD) Fire Standard consultation following its review in spring 2025.

The report has been produced for the Fire Standards Board (FSB) to provide assurance and confidence in the approach taken and to request the Board to approve the ERD Fire Standard to be published with the proposed amendments.

Summary

A review of the ERD Fire Standard took place in February 2025 with support of Emergency Driver Trainers and Instructors from across Fire and Rescue Services within England and Wales and the Chair of the Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG). The services represented amongst the group were:

- Bedfordshire
- Cornwall
- Devon and Somerset
- East Sussex
- Hertfordshire
- Humberside
- Nottinghamshire
- Mid and West Wales
- Oxfordshire
- West Midlands

This work was supported by the NFCC Lead for Emergency Response Driving, Chris Else and the NFCC Head of Operational Response and Fire Control, Kerry Blair.

Following the review and proposed amendments to the standard, the Fire Standards Board agreed that a consultation was the most appropriate next step. The consultation took place between 23 June – 18 July.

Consultation Responses

A total of 24 responses were received, including:

- 23 English Fire and Rescue Services
- Heathrow Airport Fire Service

Responding services include:

Buckinghamshire	Greater Manchester	North Yorkshire
Cambridgeshire	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Northumberland

Cheshire	Hereford and Worcester	Nottinghamshire
Cornwall	Kent	Oxfordshire
County Durham and Darlington	London Fire Brigade	Staffordshire
Dorset and Wiltshire	Merseyside	West Sussex
East Sussex	Norfolk	West Yorkshire
Essex		

The Consultation

50 comments were analysed, some of which contained multiple points and opinions. Each of these have been reviewed and categorised into the following:

e. Agreed;
f. Partially agreed;
g. Noted; or
h. Declined.

The consultation feedback provided covered a range of topics including:

- Clarity of language and ease of reading.
- Broader queries relating to guidance and legislation

Amendments suggested by respondents that were **declined** included topics such as:

- Changing terminology which is consistent across other Fire Standards

Proposed Amendments to the ERD Fire Standard

Following a review of the consultation feedback, the group agreed to the following additional amendments:

Please note that the below list outlines only new amendments following the consultation. It does not include the proposals that were agreed following the initial review which were taken to consultation.

Desired Outcome

- Amendment to the second paragraph to include that a service has “an inclusive” learning culture.

To Achieve This Fire Standard

No additional amendments agreed

Expected Benefits of Achieving the Fire Standard

No additional amendments agreed

Legal Requirements and Mandatory Duties

No additional amendments agreed

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

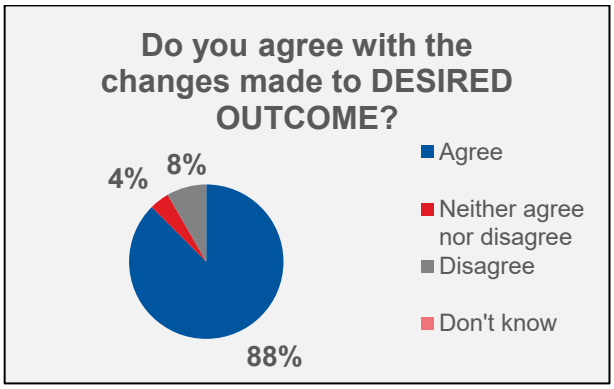
The Operational Learning Fire Standard was added

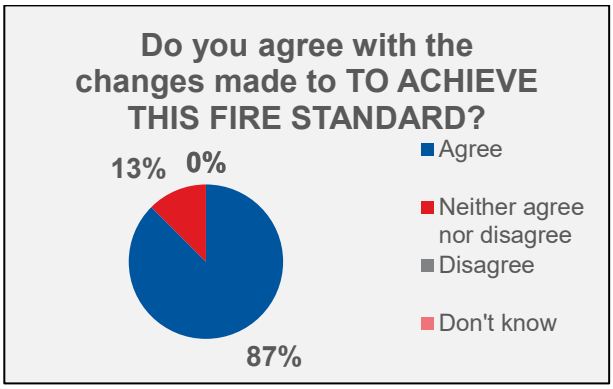
Guidance and supporting information

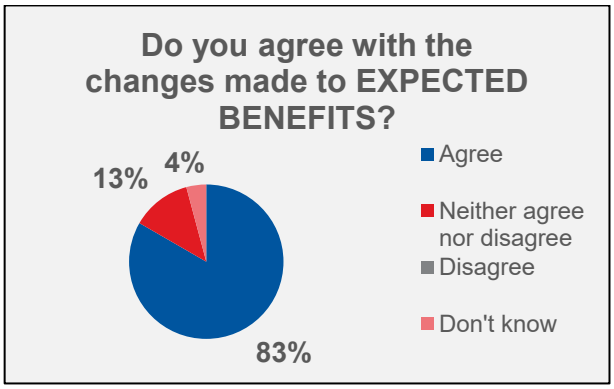
No additional amendments agreed

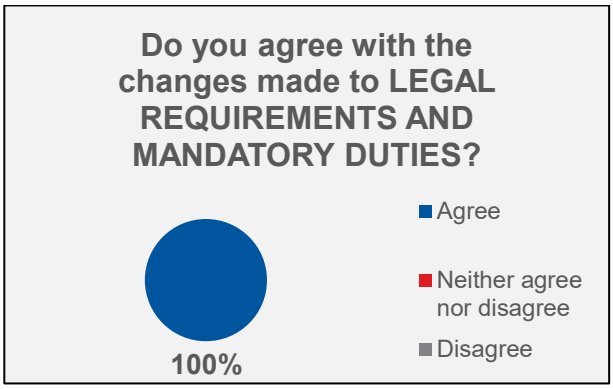
Consultation Questions – Summary of Responses

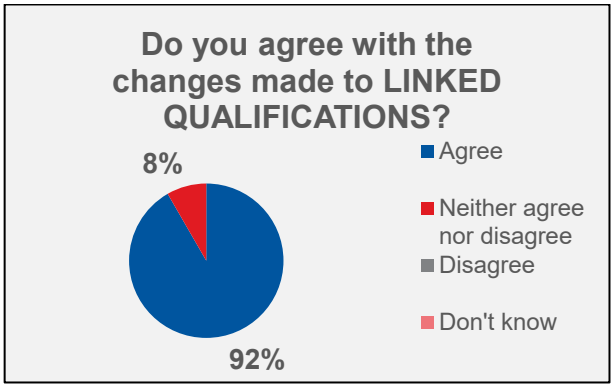
Responses to questions on the content of the Fire Standard are summarised below.

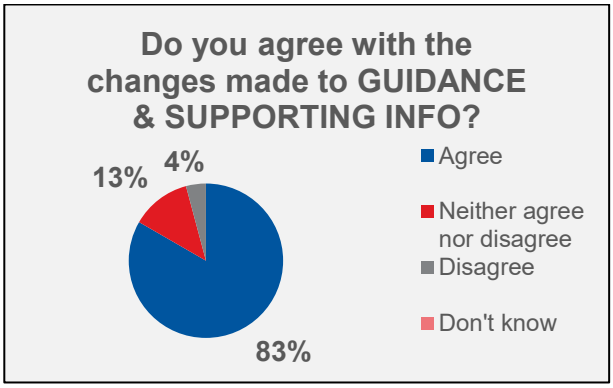












Conclusion

The subsequent amendments to the ERD Fire Standard were shared with the wider Driver Training Advisory Group and NFCC Lead for Driver Training, Chris Else who all confirmed they were content with the amendments.

To support the proposed amendments, NFCC Operations Hub Lead, Kerry Blair agreed to temporarily update the introduction to the NFCC Emergency response driver and instructor framework to emphasise to services that they should be aiming for the legislation which has not been enacted yet. It included a reminder for the minimum training requirement set out for those who have not yet achieved this.

The Board is now asked to approve the ERD Fire Standard for publication and the included communications plan.

APPENDIX D – EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRIVER FIRE STANDARD

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

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.

	Emergency Response Driving	
Review Date	25/03/2025	
Reference Number	FSD-RSP01	
	ERD FIRE STANDARD AS PUBLISHED IN 2021	**POST-CONSULTATION PROPOSALS JUL 2025** **Pre-consultation proposals are in red** **Post-consultation proposals are in blue**
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. A service that has an inclusive 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		

APPENDIX A

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

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: 7. Engaging on the NFCC Workplace online forum	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 that apply to emergency response driving. 3. Give due regard to relevant National Guidance to support instructor and driver training including the NFCC Emergency Response Driver and Instructor Framework. 4. Ensure that records of driver competency and revalidation training are kept and maintained 5. Ensure that their driver training provision is periodically independently quality assured 6. Deliver inclusive and accessible training, recognising that every workforce, community and group has different and diverse needs 7. Support the national Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG) through regional structures 8. Provide appropriate representation at relevant national meetings, events and conferences 9. 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 experiences with the NFCC network of fire and rescue service

8. Supporting the national Driver Training Advisory Group (DTAG) through regional structures 9. Considering appropriate representation at relevant national events and conferences	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 4. 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 4. More efficient transfer of appropriately trained and competent personnel between services
Legal requirements or mandatory duties	
1. Road Traffic Regulation Act (specifically Section 87) 2. Road Traffic Act 3. Road Safety Act 2006 - Section 19 *Not yet enacted* 4. The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations 5. Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations	1. Road Traffic Regulation Act (specifically Section 87) 2. Road Traffic Act 3. Road Safety Act 2006 - Section 19 4. The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations 5. Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations

6. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions	6. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions
Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards	
1. National Occupational Standard – FF9	1. National Occupational Standard – FF9 2. Community Risk Management Planning 3. Operational Preparedness 4. Operational Competence 5. Leading and Developing People
Guidance and supporting information	
1. Emergency response driver and instructor framework 2. Assessment forms linked to the above framework	1. Emergency response driver and instructor framework 2. Assessment forms linked to the above framework