

The Institute of Fire Safety Managers

Established 1993



Level 2 Award in the Principles of Fire Risk Assessing

Registered Offices:

**IFSM House
Dunston House
Dunston Road
Sheepbridge
Chesterfield
S41 9QD**

Registered in England: No 5669063

Level 2 Award in the Principles of Fire Risk Assessing

We are currently in production of a customised qualification aimed at providing basic underlying principles which are required prior to undertaking Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs). Industry Qualifications (IQ) are working with us, as the Awarding Body and we are hopeful of gaining accreditation around April / May 2019 time.

Fire Risk Assessment is currently a very emotive issue in the fire sector as the industry is mainly serviced by retired fire service personnel. This is a resource that has diminished to a tiny fraction of its previous level and therefore underpins the acute requirement of a good entry-level qualification because there are very few young person's able to enter the industry, as verified by our skills analysis survey.

Level 2 Award in the Principles of Fire Risk Assessing

We are producing a Level 2 qualification which will enable successful individuals to understand the depth of knowledge required in order to successfully carry out Fire Risk Assessments on simple, less complex risk premises.

Our definition of simple, less complex premises includes, buildings of up to 3 storeys (which may include a basement) in height with straightforward layouts and containing lower risk single or multiple occupancies. For example: office and industrial premises, small and medium sized shops, sports premises and arts centres.

These simple, less complex premises can have routine, but not excessive, public access. The Fire Risk Assessments and actions plans for these buildings can be developed using the current guidance documents and codes, such as those published by the relevant legislative bodies and cross-referenced to appropriate sections of British Standards and other significant and relevant accepted guides. The use of compensatory measures to produce risk proportionate or alternative solutions will be understood and applied in more straightforward situations.

The qualification proposes to cover the acquisition of knowledge which will enable delegates to demonstrate:

Their communication skills and detail of how to organise and collect information and data for any building and align it to the current fire safety regulations and guidance documents.

The meaning of general fire precautions and preventative and protective measures as defined in the current legislation.

The control measures required to mitigate the risks from fire.

How to identify and evaluate fire hazards (both common and process) and the risks associated with those hazards.

How to identify people who are at risk from fire and be able to recommend how best to ensure their safety.

The knowledge required prior to being able to conduct a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment of a simple less complex premises taking a comprehensive view of all the preventative and protective measures that are required.

How to recognise when any aspect of a Fire Risk Assessment or the whole Fire Risk Assessment is beyond their competency level.

The qualification will be based on 6 units, detailed below and is expected to require 60 hours of input.

Legislation and Guidance

A Fire Risk Assessor will know:

The appropriate regulations and guidance for normal risk buildings.

The various guidance documents available and be able to apply the guidance in a proportional manner, as appropriate.

How to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment.

Lone Working

A Fire Risk Assessor will know how to remain safe whilst Lone Working by following suitable procedures such as:

Supervision by periodic visits and observations.

Pre-arranged intervals of regular contact between the lone worker and their contact person, by phone or e-mails.

Disclosing any pre-existing medical conditions.

Checks to determine that they are in a safe environment.

They should not be deemed vulnerable, young, pregnant or disabled.

Behaviour of Fire in Buildings

A Fire Risk Assessor will be able to:

Understand the basic science of fire including the chemistry of combustion.

Be aware of how fire may start (the principles of combustion) and if not checked, how it may spread.

Understand how the products of combustion and their movement may affect those occupying the building.

A Fire Risk Assessor will also be able to, in relation to the building being assessed, demonstrate an awareness of:

How construction materials behave in fire.

How structural designs differ and behave in fire.

Compartmentation and fire spread internally in a building.

How to identify alterations that have been made to the building that may affect current fire safety precautions and strategies.

Ignition Sources

A fire risk assessor will be able to identify the following sources of ignition:

Electrical sources

Lightning

Friction

Chemical processes

Arson

Segregation

Provision of First Aid Fire Fighting Equipment

The Fire Risk Assessor will be aware of the different Classes of Fire and the appropriate extinguisher for each class.

Means of Escape

A Fire Risk Assessor will understand how the different needs of people can affect the provision of appropriate means of escape, including:

That all persons within the buildings should be able to reach a place of ultimate safety before life-threatening conditions arise either aided or unaided.

Escape should not rely upon assistance being provided by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Understand the provision of alternative escape routes where required and the need to identify dead end conditions and single direction escape.

The means of escape in common areas of flats/apartments.

Understand the meaning and provision of both horizontal and vertical escape.

Understand the principles of travel distance and travel times.

Understand the requirement for an adequate number and width of escape routes and exits.

Be aware of protected escape routes and the term 'place of relative safety'.

Have a clear understanding of the provision of appropriate fire detection systems and method of raising the alarm.

Be aware of the provision and maintenance requirements for signage and emergency escape lighting.

Understand the procedures that need to be put in place should assisted evacuation be necessary and the need for training for those who may need to use provided equipment and those who will assist in its use.

Understand the various Evacuation Strategies which can be used and show knowledge of how and where each one is applied in any particular simple/complex building.

Communication Skills (Will be delivered as a Golden Thread throughout the course)

A Fire Risk Assessor will be able to demonstrate that they are:

- a. Confident
- b. Articulate
- c. Effective at Listening
- d. Able to understand others and
- e. Can write effectively

Passive Fire Safety Provisions

A Fire Risk Assessor will have an awareness of:

ADB B2 Internal fire spread (linings)

ADB B3 Internal fire spread (structure) Preventing the unseen spread of fire and smoke

ADB B4 External fire spread

How fire spread can be inhibited or reduced by passive fire protection methods.

How to identify passive fire elements and understand their role and importance:

Active Fire Safety Provisions

A Fire Risk Assessor will know:

How fire spread can be inhibited or reduced by active fire protection methods.

How to identify active fire elements and understand their role and importance.

Behaviour of People in Fire Situations

A Fire Risk Assessor will be able to:

Anticipate how people will generally behave in a fire situation.

Consider the response of people on discovering a fire or hearing the fire alarm.

Understand the possible effect on people from the effect of frequent false alarms.

Be aware of the importance of staff training, including casual staff and night workers. The actions and responsibilities of those in charge are important and need to be included.

Evacuation methods

Demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the various types of evacuation methods which may be employed.

Give clear and appropriate advice to management and the duty holders on procedures in place or that may be required.

Signs and signage provision.

The presence of, and an awareness of how mobility and other disability limitations can affect the Evacuation Strategy for the building.

The presence of, and an awareness of how children and elderly can affect the Evacuation Strategy for the building.

An awareness of lone workers.

An awareness of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's).

Staff Training, a broad awareness of:

The competence of the person responsible for fire safety and of the resources at their disposal, including staffing levels and the ratio of staff to occupancy.

Fire training being provided, recorded and available for inspection. This should include fire drills and responsibility levels and appropriate record keeping.

Use of Fire Marshals and their roles.

Sweep system versus Roll Call.

We currently have two training providers working with us on this Award, one is classroom based and one is an online provider, hopefully these will be running courses this summer (Target date of July 2019).

If you are interested in this award and would like to be kept informed of our progress, please contact our Business Support Manager Steve Birch on info@ifsm.org.uk