



Contact Name & Address

Our Reference

Your Reference

Date

Dear Sir/Madam

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005 RE: FIRE SAFETY IN TALL BUILDINGS

The recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London have brought a focus on the fire safety provisions of high-rise buildings. Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority (DFRA) is responsible for enforcing fire safety in this type of premises and is contacting the occupiers and owners of all buildings that are six storeys or higher in Derbyshire to offer advice and support.

This is a local response to the possible risks. DFRA is not privy to any more information than what is already in the public domain and so this letter should not cause undue alarm. However it is intended to raise awareness of the issues and the persons responsible for the premises are expected to act upon it. Whilst the official findings of the inquiry into the Grenfell Tower tragedy may take some time to come forward, the investigation will likely consider the role the external cladding played in the fire and the evacuation strategy for the building. Both of these factors should be considered in a fire risk assessment.

Fire Risk Assessment

The fire risk assessment should be kept up to date so that there is a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks posed.

The fire risk assessment must be undertaken by a competent person. In larger, higher-risk premises, it is advisable to secure the services of a specialist to carry out the fire risk assessment. Advice on selecting a competent fire risk assessor can be found at the web-address below however consideration should be given to selecting an individual who has demonstrated their competence either by registration with a Professional Body Registration Scheme, or by certification through a Certification Body that is UKAS accredited for the activity.

<http://www.cfoa.org.uk/19532>

email: reception@derbys-fire.gov.uk
www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive
Terry McDermott MA



The significant findings of the fire risk assessment should be communicated to all who would need to know the information. This could include tenants and occupiers.

Evacuation Strategy

Buildings are designed and built to support a particular evacuation strategy. This shapes the construction of the building, the materials used, the fire alarm system and the means of escape. As such, it is vitally important that these elements are maintained. It is equally important that occupiers, tenants and building managers understand the evacuation strategy and role that they may have in the event of fire.

The evacuation strategy should be regularly reviewed as part of the fire risk assessment.

External Cladding

In the aftermath of Grenfell Tower, the Department for Communities and Local Government instructed all local authority and social housing providers to submit samples of any in use Aluminium Composite Material cladding for testing. The failure rate of these tests has been well publicised. As a result, DFRA recommends that if your buildings use such cladding, that professional testing of the material is sourced to ascertain the fire risk. The results of this test should be used to inform a review of the fire risk assessment.

Further Advice

The Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service website contains information on fire safety. Click on the Fire Safety at Work and Other Places link.

<http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/>

The Home Office provide an online collection of fire safety risk assessment guides for different occupancy types. The same collection includes separate guidance for purpose built flats and certain types of existing housing (LACORS).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-safety-law-and-guidance-documents-for-business>

Yours faithfully

Authorised Fire Safety Inspecting Officer
And on behalf of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority