

Catalyst Safety

health & safety specialists

# Fire Safety

Specification

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## Introduction

At Catalyst we believe in delivering the highest quality service and we are committed to assisting our clients in negotiating through the maze of fire safety legislation. We aim to help our clients in meeting the requirements of the Building Safety Bill and other associated guidance.

We are a group of like-minded risk management professionals, with over 30 years' experience in the fire industry, who believe in providing innovative services solutions using technology wherever possible to ease the burden on our clients.

We focus on a two-tiered approach:

- Getting it right first time at site level by choosing the correct consultant with the best level of knowledge and experience to deliver a service which meets all the requirements laid down in PAS79 and the latest government guidance.
- Delivering meaningful management information at corporate level to enable organisations to monitor compliance, make decisions and target resources where they are needed.





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## Services

### Fire Risk Assessment

The requirement for organisations to complete a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment is contained in The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This applies to all employers and occupiers for the areas and activities under their control, as well as to both commercial and residential landlords.

The fire risk assessment will be completed in accordance with the standard specified in PAS79 and the sector specific guidance contained in the relevant government guide.

The assessment will be completed by one of our experts who has specific experience of the type of property and activities taking place. The outcome will be a documented Fire Risk Assessment which has evaluated all areas under your control and measured your risk controls in terms of legislative compliance. The output will be a report with prioritised Action Plan contained practical and cost-effective recommendations for improvement.

Further information is contained within our Specification – Fire Risk Assessment

### Residential Fire Risk Assessment

There are currently four different types of fire risk assessment, however we concentrate on two types.

**Type 1 - Fire Risk Assessment** – This is a non-intrusive assessment of common areas and other areas under the landlord's control and would be appropriate for most purpose build blocks of flats. Where there are compartmentation or firestopping issues then a more intrusive assessment will be needed. Risers, void spaces and loft spaces will be included in the assessment, as well as a cross section of flat entrance doors.

**Type 4 – Fire Risk Assessment** – Also known as a Passive Survey, this is a destructive assessment of both common parts and flats which would normally be reserved for properties where there are deficiencies in compartmentation or fire stopping, or the history of construction work is unknown and/or where the structural protection may not support a stay put policy. This type of assessment would not specifically include external wall systems, and further investigation inspection of these may be needed. Each Type 4 Survey will be separately scoped out depending on the circumstances and deficiencies already identified. Normally this type of assessment will consider the following:

- Compartmentation and firestopping in all risers, vertical shafts and void spaces.
- Any loft or attic spaces or void areas.
- Compartmentation between individual flats, both vertically and horizontally.
- Between flats and common area, and specifically protected routes.
- The standard of compartmentation above ceilings in protected routes and between these areas and adjoining flats.
- Penetrations through flats into common areas or the external envelope, e.g. soil and vent pipes.



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A fire strategy should be available for any property which is constructed or extended. The strategy aims to provide an overview of the building design and any fire engineering decisions made. This strategy should be completed during construction; however it may require updating if there are significant changes to the design or operation of the building. See separate specification for more details.

## Competence

All fire safety work will be completed by ex-fire brigade assessors with specific qualifications and experience in the type of property and activities carried out.

Type 4 assessments will be completed by fire assessors who have specific qualification or training in this type of work.

Higher level fire work, such as Fire Strategy and fire engineering design will be exclusively completed by a qualified Fire Engineer or Chartered Fire Engineer as appropriate.

## Method

In all cases, the work commissioned will be completed by a consultant who is an expert and experienced in the work completed by your organisation. All decisions made will be evidence based, e.g. supported by physical observations, photographs/videos and the records available.

The process will be completed as follows:

- The best consultant is assigned to the job based around the type of organisation and their experience.
- Appointment arranged so that key managers are available, as they understand your business operations.
- Information requested in advance of the site visit so the consultant can prepare and to ensure effective use of the time available.
- Where relevant, a physical assessment or survey is completed in relation to all areas and activities under your control.
- For more complex work such as Type 4 surveys, we will need to liaise with your managers and contractors to carefully plan the work and access to the relevant areas.
- All key documentation is identified and evaluated.
- At all stages we will be measuring existing risk controls against the following criteria: likelihood and severity of fire, personal injury claim, property damage or enforcement action and the level of compliance with legislation and current approved guidance.
- While on site we will inform you of any immediate improvements and agree interim control measures with you.
- A report will be prepared which documents how you are currently complying with relevant legislation, plus an Action Plan which will identify practical and cost-effective recommendations for improvement and prioritise them based on the criteria set out above.
- The actions can also be managed via our online compliance management tool, where records can also be stored and managed.
- We can also assist you in planning and implementing the actions to ensure effective use of resources.



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## Further Information

For further information please contact [gordon.allan@catalystsafety.co.uk](mailto:gordon.allan@catalystsafety.co.uk) or call 07973 736 967.

Catalyst Strategic Safety Management delivers solutions to all your health and safety risk management needs, including the following:



### Health & Safety

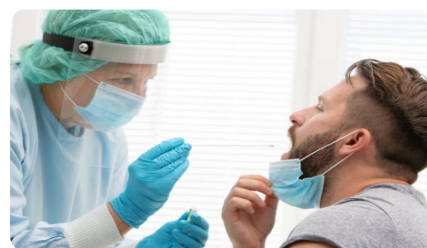
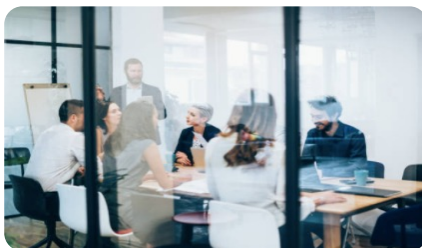
- Business Review
- Risk Assessments
- CDM
- Accident Investigation
- Expert Witness
- Policy Development
- ISO45001 Evaluation

### Fire Safety

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Fire Strategy
- Passive Surveys
- Fire Engineering

### Asbestos

- Asbestos Management Surveys
- R&D Surveys
- Project Management



### Legionella

- Legionella Assessments
- Compliance Audits

### Training

- Accredited NEBOSH and IOSH training
- Business specific training

### Covid/Infection Control

- Compliance Audits
- Policy Development
- Guidance



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**To discuss this specification further,  
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