



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

POLICY INSTRUCTION

STANDARDS FOR TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE ALARM AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEMS ON THE DEFENCE ESTATE

Number: PI 07/10

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Who Should Read this: CEStOs, Top Level Budget Holders, MOD Project Managers, Commanding Officers/Heads of Establishment, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Deputy Heads (Estates), DIO Advisors, DIO Facility Managers and Maintenance Site Estate Team Leaders, Management Organisations, who are advised to draw it to the attention of the relevant Supply Chain Organisations.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire:
When superseded

Health & Safety

Equality And Diversity Impact Assessment

This policy has been Equality and Diversity Impact Assessed in accordance with the Department's Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment Tool against:

Part 1 Assessment Only (no diversity impact found).

1. Document aim

1.1 The aim of this document is to ensure that all fire alarm and emergency lighting systems are tested and maintained to the required standard. It should be read in conjunction with Defence Estates Operating Instruction (DEOI) 05/10.

2. Introduction

2.1 Questions have been raised about the standards to be applied when installing, testing and maintaining fire alarms and emergency lighting systems on the defence estate.

2.2 The introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO) 2005 which applies in England and Wales places a legal duty on the responsible person. Article 17 states: The responsible person must maintain any fire safety facilities, equipment or devices provided in the premises. This includes fire alarm and emergency lighting systems. Under the terms of article 3 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the responsible person is the Secretary of State for Defence. This responsibility is cascaded down to persons who are responsible/have control of the premises/buildings.

2.3 The Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006, regulation 16(1) – Maintenance states: ‘Where necessary in order to ensure the safety of relevant persons in respect of harm caused by fire the person with duties under section 53 or 54 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended, must ensure that the relevant premises and any facilities, equipment and devices provided in respect of the relevant premises are subject to a suitable system of maintenance and are maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair’.

2.4 The Northern Ireland (NI) equivalent of the RRO 2005 is currently going through NI Parliament and is believed to mirror the RRO 2005.

3. Required Standards

3.1 Fire alarm and emergency lighting systems installed on the defence estate are to be tested and maintained in accordance with the relevant British Standard.

3.2 Buildings on the defence estate are constructed in accordance with Crown Fire Standards (CFS), which refer to the BS for design, installation and maintenance criteria to ensure compliance with statute, and regulation whilst providing ‘through-life’ reliability.

3.3 Action addressees are to ensure that the requirements of this PI are passed to their Maintenance Management Organisation and other responsible persons without delay.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any further information required on this matter should be directed to the contact point of this PI in the first instance.