

5 Step Guide to Fire Risk Assessments for Employers, Property Owners & Managers

No one expects a Fire on their site. That's something that happens to those that are working with hazardous materials and plenty of ignition points. Its only until you have had a Fire Risk Assessment completed that you realise that there are risks all around which can harm your employees, customers and site itself.

1. What is the Legislation?

Part 3 of The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and The Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 came into effect on 15 November 2010. This took the onus away from the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) and onto the Business owner. Any Company with 5 or more people must have a written assessment to comply with these Regulations.

2. What sites require a Fire Risk Assessment?

Most sites require an Assessment. These include offices, factories, shops, licensed premises, Care homes, cinemas, hotels, B&Bs, places of worship, schools, community centers, HMO's, tents, animal premises and open air events, to name a few.

3. Who should carry out the Fire Risk Assessment?

It is deemed that a competent person should carry out the Fire Risk Assessment. A competent person is someone with sufficient training,

experience and knowledge to enable them to implement the appropriate fire safety measures.

4. What is covered in a Fire Risk Assessment?

The Assessment will cover who is at Risk, the processes on site, ignition sources, safe storage of dangerous substances, any lacks in Fire procedures, suitably maintained Fire Safety equipment, Training and Fire Evacuation Drills (including the needs for vulnerable people), providing information to employees and other onsite personnel, Signage, means for raising the Fire Alarm and means of escape. The Assessment should report any significant findings, recommendations required and a Fire Action Plan for the owner to work through to get their site to the standard required.

5. How often should the Fire Risk Assessment be reviewed?

An Assessment should be reviewed periodically as risks may change. If changes are made to the site, the Assessment would also need reviewed. Sites are changing consistently whether through processes, staff and the building itself, so the Assessment will always need reviewed.

Fire Risk Assessments are now fully required and you will be brought to account if you haven't had one carried out on your site.