



## Re: Competence Statement and SKEB Declaration

Neil Edwards, Evolution Management Consultancy Ltd

### To Whom It May Concern

My name is **Neil Edwards**, Principal Consultant and founder of **Evolution Management Consultancy Ltd**. This statement sets out my **Skills, Knowledge, Experience, and Behaviour (SKEB)** in relation to fire risk associated with multilayer paint combustible surfaces and fire retardant and intumescent systems and evidences my professional competence under the Building Regulations and BSI Flex 8670 framework.

This declaration is submitted in support of my engagement as a **third-party specialist** where my expertise is required by Dutyholders, Principal Contractors, Principal Designers, or Responsible Persons to meet their statutory obligations under the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005**, the **Building Safety Act 2022**, and UK legislation.

In the context of today's built environment, demonstrating competence is not just a legal requirement under the **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM)** and **Fire Safety legislation**, it is a professional obligation that underpins safety, accountability, and trust. Duty holders, designers, and contractors must be able to show that those involved in the design, coordination, and execution of safety-critical work are **competent by virtue of their Skills, Knowledge, Experience, and Behaviour (SKEB)**.

However, competency is not a fixed position. In complex or emerging risk areas—such as the fire performance of **multilayer paint systems** or the interaction of coatings with passive fire protection (PFP) measures—it is essential that those operating at the boundary of their expertise know **when and how to escalate**. Timely, informed escalation is key to avoiding compliance failure, misjudged risk tolerance, or unintended safety compromises.

To that end, Evolution Management Consultancy Ltd operates within a trusted escalation network that ensures independent oversight. This network includes:

- **Paul Williams, GB Compliance Ltd** – *Project Compliance Advisor*, offering oversight on CDM, legislative obligations, and project coordination under the Building Regulations.
- **The Ethical Fire Safety and Risk Management Group** – *Technical Consultants*, providing impartial expertise in all aspects of passive fire protection outside of coatings, including firestopping, compartmentation, and system selection.
- **Dr Andrew Taylor, Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)** – *Regulatory Advisor*, supporting on legislative interpretation, regulatory developments, and guidance relating to product performance, testing, and HSE interface.

This escalation framework reinforces the principle that **competency is contextual**, and good safety governance depends on collaborative working, honest boundaries, and transparent advice. It ensures that clients receive **accurate, defensible, and timely guidance**, particularly in areas where traditional assessment methods or standard competencies may fall short.

## Curriculum Vitae

- I have been employed in the coatings industry since 1991 and have gained knowledge and experience with decorative, protective and fire safety coatings as a manufacturer, specifier. In addition, my experience of working with colour allows me to identify concerns related to Equality Act Compliance.

- Relevant roles and consultancy projects over the last 30+ years

ICI Dulux Trade Representative 2003-2007

Akzo Nobel Business Development Manager 2008-2012

Akzo Nobel Regional Development Manager London 2012-2016

Chair Society British and International Design Colour Council 2017-2018

Chair Apprenticeship Trailblazer Group Paint & Decorating 2015-2019

McLoughlin Group Technical Consultant 2016-2020

Thermoguard UK Fire Coatings Consultant 2020-2023

- Relevant academic achievements and CPD activities.

Eight Passes at O'Level (including Maths and English)

Author of the White Paper – Hidden in Plain Site

Author of the Guide to Paint Risk – Inspection – Competency

## Knowledge and Technical Competence

I have developed specialist knowledge in:

- The fire performance of surface coatings, with a focus on internal **multilayered paint systems**, aged and degraded combustible linings and legacy decorative layers.
- Application and interpretation of **BS EN 13501-1**, **BS 476 Parts 6/7** and related fire performance testing regimes
- National fire safety guidance, including Fire Protection Association (FPA) best practice, IFE guidance, and PAS 9980 principles

My role bridges a critical knowledge gap in design and compliance, where surface finishes may unknowingly compromise fire performance in **escape routes**, **communal areas**, and **healthcare environments**.

## Relevant Experience

Over a 30-year career, I have worked across:

- New Construction , Healthcare, Education, Residential and Heritage sectors
- Design and remediation programmes involving passive fire protection, coatings, and legacy risk evaluation
- Site inspections, material sampling and client advisory roles where multilayer paint and combustible coatings posed real or potential risks to life safety
- I created and chaired the first Painting and Decorating Trailblazer Group that established the current apprenticeship training modules

Projects include direct engagement at concept, implementation and handover stages to:

- Review material specifications
- Support Building Control compliance
- Guide risk-based decision-making around decorative finishes
- Manage changes to specifications during construction
- Facilitate supply and changes to materials
- Facilitate training

A summary of recent and current relevant projects.

Consultant - DCK Construction – Broadwater Farm Project for Haringey

Consultant - Novus Solutions – Guinness Partnership South West Region

Consultant - Steel 24 Ltd – Ealing Studios New Build I,J and K

Technical Fire Consultant – GC Johnson Buckhurst Hill

Consultant Maybank Associates – Fortnum and Masons

## Training , Qualifications and CPD

Unlike the protection of steel there are currently no specialist training courses other than bespoke, or project specific manufacturer training focussed on the identification of multilayer paint risk and its mitigation. I am currently working with Bernie Higgins and Malcolm Tullett of TEFSRM on performance criteria for walls, ceilings and soffits in support of FRAs and Responsible Persons to address this knowledge gap.

Qualification/Training	Provider	Year	Relevance
Introduction to products	Nullifire	2025	Products and methodology for specification and certification
Building Safety Act	Assent BC	2025	Liability and Responsibilities of Duty Holders
Fire Risk Assessor Knowledge Gap	TEFSRM Group	2025	Knowledge limitations and the need to Escalate
Fire Rated Ceilings	Lidner	2025	Ceiling safety in communal areas and escape routes
Fire Retardant and Intumescent Coatings	Thermoguard	2025	Changes and advancements
Onsite Culture / Assessments	ASFP	2024	Managing competence for building regulations compliance
How Class A2 s1 d0 affects the industry	Keim	2024	Achieving A2 s1 d0 on external substrates
Specialist Coatings Seminar	DCE	2018	Integration with decorative material risks
Flame Spread Multilayer Paint	Exova	2017	Understanding Multilayer Paint and the RRO 2005

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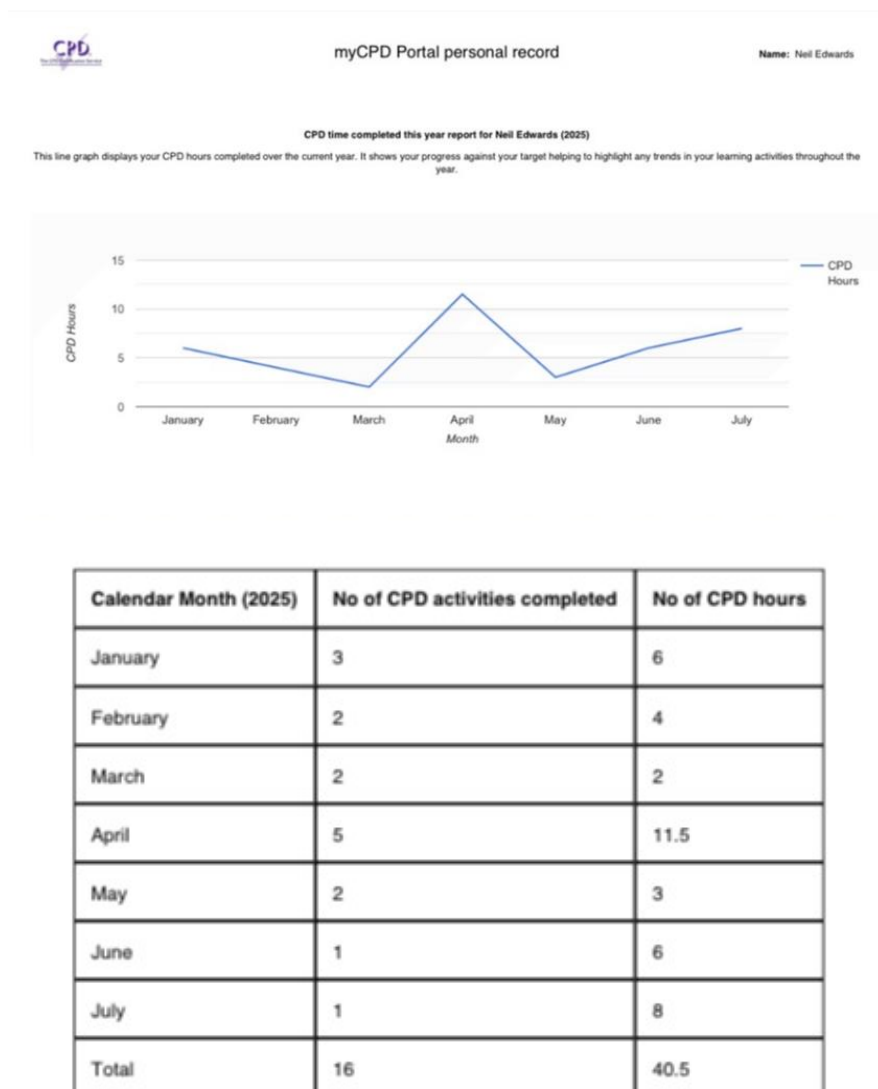
## Continual Professional Development (CPD)

My CPD programme is ongoing, multi-disciplinary, and includes:

- Authoring white papers and technical documents on **multilayer paint fire risk**
- Developing **CPD training sessions** for Fire Risk Assessors, Architects, and Facilities Managers
- Producing tools to assist with **escalation decisions** and **surface evaluation techniques**

These reflect my commitment to remaining current and supporting competence in others.

- CPD Record 2025

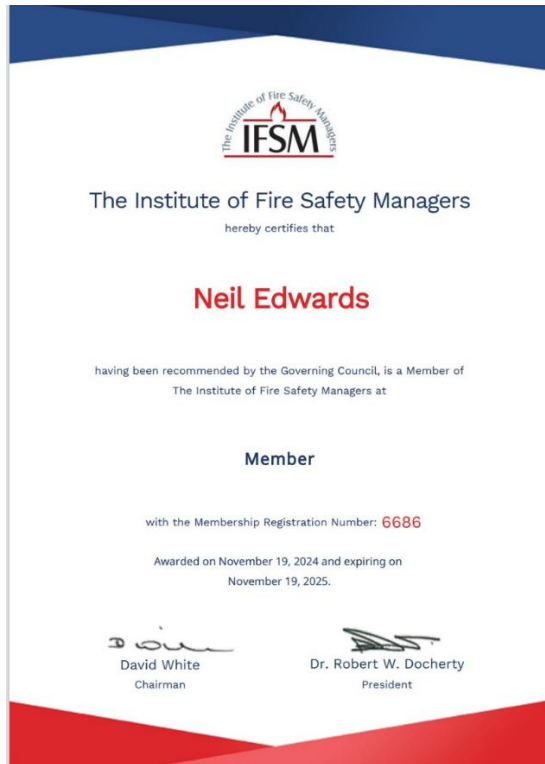


## Behaviour and Ethical Standards

I operate with:

Independence and objectivity in all consultancy work

- A focus on evidence-based advice and appropriate escalation where risks exceed standard competency boundaries



## Regulatory Good Standing Declaration

I confirm that:

- I have **no disciplinary history**, sanctions, or adverse findings recorded by any regulatory or professional body
- I am not subject to any ongoing investigations or restrictions
- I undertake to work only within the limits of my proven competence and escalate concerns where specialist input is needed

*Neil Edwards*

Signed:

Neil Edwards

Principal Consultant, Evolution Management Consultancy Ltd

Date: 01/06/2025

## **Example**

### **Scope Alignment Statement**

This statement applies to:

**[Insert Project Name or Scope – e.g., “Review of multilayer paint coatings in escape stairwells and communal corridors, 1970s concrete frame block”]**

I confirm that my qualifications, experience, and role align with the needs of this scope, specifically in:

- Evaluating passive fire performance of internal and external surfaces
- Recommending remedial actions in accordance with Building Regulations and ADB
- Supporting Responsible Persons and Designers in meeting expectations

**Signed:**

Neil Edwards

**Principal Consultant, Evolution Management Consultancy Ltd**

**Date:**