

Fire Safety In Construction

**HSG168
UPDATES**

**HOW IT
AFFECTS YOU**



HSE UPDATES

The HSE has published a revised version of the publication Fire safety in construction (HSG168).

The latest edition contains guidance explaining the need to eliminate, and or mitigate fire risks during the design phase (where practicable), how to prevent site fires from starting and ensuring people's safety if they do.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The guidance applies to and is aimed at everyone involved in construction projects from design to managing the construction site.

What are the main changes?

The main changes to this latest iteration of the HSE's guidance relate to the elimination and/or reduction of fire risks at the pre-construction stage as required by the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

The guidance is split into three parts addressing fire risk assessments, fire precautions and legal/enforcement responsibilities.

How does it affect you?

Client



If you're the client you must ensure a plan is in place for construction phase which includes specific fire risks and procedures in case of fire.

You must also provide relevant pre-construction information including existing general fire precautions, building layouts and any presence of hazardous materials.

Designer



If you're a designer you must consider the risk of fire when designing the construction project and ensure that the risk of fire is identified, eliminated and controlled, if you're the principal designer that includes challenging decisions made by designers to ensure their duties have been carried out.

You must also liaise with the principal contractor to help in the planning and management of fire risk in the construction phase.

How does it affect you?

Contractor



If you're the principal contractor you must liaise with the client and principal designer in relation to identified fire risks. As the responsible person, you must ensure a site-specific risk assessment, that programming considers fire mitigation measures and that those measures are put in place. If you're a contractor you'll need to work with the principal contractor to ensure all of the above are carried out and reviewed.

Worker



If you're a worker you must adhere to site rules including fire and emergency procedures. You must report anything that is likely to endanger your own or others' safety and follow General Fire Precautions at all times.

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