



Fire Sector
Federation

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Federation News

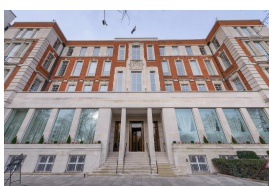
New FRA Competency Board

The Home Office is introducing a new Interim (Fire Risk Assessor) Competence Verification Board (ICVB) to work more closely with industry leaders to refine and finesse its delivery plan for implementation of Section 156(4) of the Building Safety Act and monitor progress.

The ICVB will be jointly chaired by Home Office and Fire Sector Federation and membership will include the FRA certification bodies and schemes, UKAS, NFCC and Developed Administrations.

The Industry Engagement group (IEG) will continue to provide a forum through which members of the wider fire and building safety sector can be kept up to date on developments and have an early opportunity to influence direction of travel. The next IEG meeting is on 15th April at 14:00 and anyone interested in attending should contact colin.coxton@homeoffice.gov.uk for an invitation.

Fire Conference 24



This year's Fire Conference 24 will take place again at the IET: Savoy Place in London on 24th

October. Early bird tickets are on sale [here](#) with the usual £50 discount for Federation members. Details on speakers will be released in due course.

DoT Battery Consultation

The Department of Transport has launched a consultation on proposals to double the wattage of e-bike and e-cargo bike batteries.



Among the "potential disadvantages" identified in the proposals is "a risk of more severe battery fires from more powerful e-cycles and this could be exacerbated by tampering."

The consultation closes on 25th April and is available [here](#).

NFCC Opinion Paper

The National Fire Chiefs Council has published an opinion paper outlining some of the key considerations for fire and rescue services when reviewing the design of high-rise residential buildings including:

Stairways are independent from each other and therefore a single fire cannot impact upon escape routes.

Safe egress is provided for all building users, including those who either would not be able to, or would find it difficult to descend stairs.

Suitable resilience and flexibility is provided for firefighting. This should include appropriate access and facilities, with sufficient resilience and redundancy in the design.

The paper is available to download [here](#).

High-Rise Campaign

The Building Safety Regulator has launched a [campaign](#) to make those living in tall buildings in England aware of how new Building Safety laws affect them. These laws protect and empower people living in high-rise residential buildings to take part in safety decisions that affect them, as well as providing a clear process for reporting safety concerns.

IMechE Seminar



Federation members can attend the Institution of Mechanical Engineers **Improving Fire Safety through Simulation and Modelling 2024** seminar on 11th June in Birmingham at a discounted rate. To attend, book a place online [here](#) and select the 'Supporting Organisation' rate.

Diary Dates

Federation Meetings:

AGM – May 1st NEC Birmingham (fire Safety Event)

Forums:

1st August (virtual)

23rd October, London

NFCC Spring Conference: 22-23 April

Fire Sprinkler International: 24-25 April

Fire Safety Event: 30 April - 2 May

BSR Conference: 21st May

Emergency Services Show: 18-19 September

Social Housing Report

The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) has published its latest fire safety remediation report for social housing in England covering buildings over 11 metres. The [report](#) summarises findings from the November RSH 2023 aggregate level survey and the progress made since its first survey.

Building Safety Conference

The Building Safety Regulator is planning to hold a conference on 21st May at the NEC Birmingham to address key developments and practices following the introduction of the Building Safety Act. The free to attend event aims to provide a direct line of communication between the regulator, industry professionals and those impacted by recent legislative changes. Attendees will include accountable and principal accountable persons, building control professionals, fire & rescue service personnel and professionals from construction and design industries. Full details are due to be announced by BSR shortly.

BS5839-1

BS5839-1 Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings. Part 1: design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of systems in non-domestic premises- Code of practice has been published for comment by 16th April. The document is available [here](#).

Member Subscriptions

Members will shortly receive subscription invoices for the coming year from April 2024 to March 2025. This year will see a small increase in subscriptions of 5%, in line with inflation.

For further information about the Fire Sector Federation please contact executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk

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