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SPECIAL BULLETIN FOR EXPLORER CLIENTS

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NEW FIRE SAFETY LAW
(THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005)

The Government has changed the fire safety legislation – with effect from the 1st October 2006

Cutting through it all – this is how it will affect you and your Company – depending on size and type etc. etc.

- Fire certificates are no longer issued
- Responsibility for compliance rests with the ‘responsible person’ – in effect – you!
- You must carry out a fire risk assessment, paying particular attention to those ‘at special risk’ – the young, disabled, special needs etc. and include consideration of any dangerous substances likely on the premises.
- Identify risks that can be removed or reduced; precautions to be taken and, if you employ 5 or more, you must record your risk assessment and any significant findings.
- The Fire Safety Order applies to virtually all premises and covers nearly every type of building and structure; for example: Offices & shops, care homes, community halls, houses in multiple occupation, pubs, clubs and restaurants, schools, tents and marquees, hotels and hostels, factories and warehouses. It seems to exclude purely domestic premises occupied by single family groups!

The Fire Risk Assessment:

- Step One: Identify the fire hazards
- Step Two: Identify all people at risk
- Step Three: Evaluate the risks
- Step Four: Record your findings
- Step Five: Review and revise

The fire risk assessment helps you identify all the fire hazards and risks in your workplace – you can then decide whether they are acceptable or whether you need to do something to reduce or control them.

This is important and a legal requirement for your Company to comply with; place the risk assessment in the Health & Safety file we are always encouraging you to have available in the general office.

On our annual or periodic inspections we will assist you to firm up the risk assessment made and will advise, of course, on further actions you may need to take but overall our clients do have an excellent base of risk assessments and policies, up to date fire fighting equipment and signage all modern and in the right place, as well as covering emergency evacuations by induction and by testing – so don’t panic (!) – just add your assessment to the file and you will be covered by our umbrella!

For our clients outside a regular inspection, and who are still worried by the new regulations, we offer a ‘one off’ service at reduced rates in order to attend site, inspect, report and advise – so don’t hesitate to contact our office!!

Be Safe!
Jerry F. Ridgway

“AN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND SPECIALISTS”