



Technical Fire Safety

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PAS 79 has been revised to take account of changes to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

PAS 79:2007 Fire risk assessment. Guidance and a recommended methodology is a comprehensive Publicly Available Specification (PAS) that gives a nine-step structured approach and corresponding documentation for conducting and recording significant findings of fire risk assessments in buildings across three legislative regimes, namely that in England and Wales, that in Scotland and the unchanged legislation in Northern Ireland (which will not change until, at least, later this year).

PAS 79 is non-prescriptive. It does not specify how the fire risk assessors should go about their businesses or even the format of the documented fire risk assessment. Instead, it sets out nine key steps that need to be carried out in assessing the fire risk in any building.

The nine steps include obtaining the relevant information, identifying the hazards, considering the appropriate control measures, reviewing the fire protection measures, assessing fire safety management and much more.

The nine steps in PAS 79 may help to:

- Provide organizations and their advisers with a suggested methodology for meeting their legislative responsibilities to undertake the fire risk assessments
- Promote better understanding of the fire risks and fire safety
- Encourage the adoption of a common understanding, a common language and a common system for carrying out fire risk assessments
- Provide an understanding of the principles and scope of fire risk assessments
- Establish a common basis for documentation of fire risk assessments
- Benchmark for the suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment required by legislation, enabling the assessor to adopt their own individual approach and format their own documentation according to their business practices

What's new in PAS 79:2007?

This is a full revision of the document, and introduces the following principal changes.

- All references to legislation have been updated to take account of the repeal of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the Workplace Fire Precautions Legislation, and to refer to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and to the equivalent legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The technical content has been subject to minor amendment in the light of experience in the use of PAS 79.
- The guidance now recommends more detailed examination and recording of certain fire precautions and fire safety arrangements, in the light of experience and the new fire safety legislation.
- Reference is now made to the requirements of the relevant fire safety legislation in respect of dangerous substances.

PAS 79:2007 supersedes PAS 79, which is withdrawn.