

# BRIEF UPDATE

FROM THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DIVISION



## Updated Guidance Issued on Fire Safety in Construction

On 6th October 2010 the Health and Safety Executive published revised Guidance on fire safety in construction.

### The Legal Duties

The Guidance provides advice on compliance with legal duties in relation to fire safety under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 ("CDM"), the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 ("FSA"), the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ("FSO") and the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2005 (DSEAR).

The Guidance aims to cover all stages of a construction project and includes advice for clients, CDM Co-ordinators, designers, planners, contractors and workers.

### Risk Assessment

Legislation requires that a risk assessment be carried out by a responsible person in order to identify any risks which may be caused by fire. The Guidance is intended to assist the responsible person in carrying out a fire risk assessment for simple projects but recommends that a competent person with comprehensive training or experience in fire risk assessment conduct the assessment for more complex projects.

### Higher Risk Projects

The Guidance contains sections on use of higher risk methods of construction and materials, including timber frame buildings and use of composite building panels. There is also a section on multi-storey buildings.

A full copy of the Guidance can be downloaded free from the Health and safety Executive website at [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg168.pdf>]

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