

Technical Guidance Note No. 95/104

Competent Persons

[Fire Safety Design & Fire (Safety) Engineering]

0 Preliminaries

- 0.1 The object of this note is to give guidance to regulatory and statutory bodies, building designers and other specifiers, construction teams, insurance brokers and companies, manufacturers and users, concerning technical problems which may be encountered in the specification, design / development, production, supply, installation, use, maintenance, re-instatement or upgrading of fire safety related products, components, assemblies or services.

1 Competent Persons

- 1.1 There are many definitions of the word 'competence'. It may, however, be defined as 'the ability of a person to make sound value judgements in an area of professional endeavour in which he/she possesses profound knowledge, understanding and practical experience'.
- 1.2 For the purposes of safety at work and building related legislation in the European Union, a competent person in the fields of **fire safety design** and **fire (safety) engineering** shall possess :-
- (a) suitable professional qualifications ;
 - (b) appropriate experience and expertise in the design and/or construction of buildings ;
 - (c) direct experience of the fire and mechanical / durability testing of building products, materials, components, assemblies and services ;
 - (d) an understanding of current fire and mechanical / durability test methodologies, procedures and interpretations in Member States of the European Union ;
 - (e) an understanding of the principles of fire safety design ;
 - (f) an understanding of 'environmental impact' (see reference definition in the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty - OJ L 380 of 1994-12-31) .

2 Interpretation

- 2.1 **Fire Safety Design :** The art and science of the design, supervision of related construction / de-construction, and maintenance of fire safety and protection in a sustainable 'built environment'.
- 2.2 **Fire (Safety) Engineering :** The ethical application of scientific principles to relevant aspects of fire safety design.
- 2.3 **Environmental Impact :** Any effect caused by a given activity on the environment, including human health and safety (and welfare), flora, fauna, soil, air, water, (and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems), climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interactions among these factors ; it also includes effects on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors.

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