

FIRE SAFETY LEGISLATION

The Fire Precautions Act 1971

- The control of fire safety in occupied premises and is designed to ensure the provision of adequate general fire precautions, means of escape and related fire precautions in premises.
- Fire authorities are responsible for the issue of fire certificates and they have a duty to enforce the provisions of the act and the regulations made under it.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR)

Employers have to:

- Assess all health and safety risks or hazards to employees to which they are exposed whilst at work and risks to the health and safety of persons not in his employment but whom may be affected by risks or hazards arising out of or in connection with the conduct by him of his undertaking
- Ensure that any significant risks arising out of work activity are documented, appropriate preventative and protective measures taken and monitored and reviewed as appropriate
- Take particular account of their assessment of risks to new and expectant mothers, temporary workers and the young worker
- Provide employees with adequate and sufficient health and safety training and instruction as appropriate to their knowledge and understanding to ensure competence is achieved.

Health And Safety at Work Act 1974

- Is concerned with securing the health, safety and welfare of persons at work and with protecting people who are not at work from risks to their health and safety arising from work activities.
- In terms of fire precautions, the HSW Act is used to control the keeping and use of explosive or highly flammable substances and is concerned with the precautions against the outbreak of fire in all work activities. It includes correct storage of flammable materials, the control of flammable vapours and dusts, safe systems of work and the control of ignition.

Firecode HTM 83 – Fire Safety in Healthcare Premises 1994

- Ensures that policies are implemented for dealing with life threatening situations presented by fire in an extremely vulnerable environment and for ensuring that staff at all levels receive appropriate and regular training in fire safety and evacuation procedures.
- Staff have an important role in fire prevention and in responding promptly and effectively in the event of a fire. Effect of fire is heightened when patients are involved whose observation and mobility are impaired by illness or disability.
- Everyone who works within the NHS has a responsibility to understand the characteristics of fire, smoke and toxic fumes, to know the fire hazards of their working environment and to practise and promote fire safety and the need to react instinctively should fire occur.