

Training and Qualifications in the Sprinkler Industry

Introduction

Independent research, commissioned by BAFSA, into the skills, needs and current learning provision of the fire sprinkler installation sector identified a number of issues:

- the need for clear entry routes into the sector and attracting a diverse workforce
- effective leadership and management – as a skills need and key driver for change
- training requirements
- credit based qualification frameworks
- qualification development

As a result of the research, BAFSA acknowledged there was an urgent need for increased professionalism and a structured set of qualifications together with relevant high quality training at all levels in the industry has never been greater and established a Skills and Development Committee. Membership of this group has a wide range of skills and experience across the sector drawn from BAFSA membership. In recognition of the relatively unstructured approach to training within the fire industry as a whole, and following the development of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Mechanical Fire Protection in 2012, the Committee 's core remit remains to develop vocational qualifications and training to ensure competency for persons working within the sector'.

BAFSA works with an Awarding Organisation to develop any new qualifications that are identified. Resulting qualifications are, or will, be mapped to National Occupational Standards and meet OFQUAL and Awarding Organisation regulatory requirements for all parts of the UK. BAFSA has chosen SFJ Industry Qualifications (IQ) as its preferred Awarding Organisation (AO).

SFJ IQ Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation

The IQ Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation (QCF) is a nationally recognised qualification aimed at individuals in the Fire Sprinkler Industry. This qualification is intended for those installing fire sprinklers to develop the knowledge and competences necessary to meet the industry standards for the installation role.

This qualification consists of 7 study units:

- Communicate effectively with others in the workplace D/600/6322
- Establish Effective Working Relationships J/601/9694
- Manage own resources – T/507/3224
- Health and Safety in the Workplace A/505/1483
- Awareness of Regulations in the Fire Sprinkler Industry - A/507/3225
- Fire sprinkler installation and handover - F/507/3226
- Understanding the Fire Sprinkler Industry - J/507/3227

The qualification is delivered in a day release (1 day a week over 36 weeks) or block release style (set blocks of training over 9 months). For those with more than four years verifiable installer experience, an Experienced Worker Route programme is available. Each college has its own delivery schedule.

Training Providers

Five BAFSA Preferred Training Providers provide training towards the Level 2 Qualification, these are:

- Neath Port Talbot College, South Wales
- Llandrillo College, Rhos on Sea, North Wales
- The Manchester College

- West College Scotland (Paisley)
- London South East College (Greenwich)

Fire Sprinkler Design Courses

The most recent addition to BAFSA's portfolio of direct and indirect course delivery are Fire Sprinkler Design Courses.

We now deliver sprinkler design courses across the UK. These can be for individuals who wish to sit the LPCB Examinations and Reviews or to improve their knowledge of the principles of sprinkler design.

Currently the suite of courses includes:

- Basic Sprinkler Design Course
- Intermediate Sprinkler Design Course
- Full Hydraulically Calculated Design Course
- Inspection and Commissioning Course

Details of all courses together with the dates of forthcoming courses can be found on the BAFSA website.

Courses can also be tailored to the needs of individual companies and provided in-house.

Agored Cymru Award in the Installation & Maintenance of Domestic Fire Sprinkler Systems

The Welsh Government Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Bill 2011 introduced the requirement for sprinklers to be installed in all new residential and domestic premises. The Agored Cymru Level 3 Award in the Installation & Maintenance of Domestic Fire Sprinkler Systems is an award aimed at qualified plumbers who wish to upskill and / or change profession in order to competently install sprinklers in domestic properties.

Three BAFSA Preferred Training Providers provide training towards the Award, these are:

- Neath Port Talbot College, South Wales
- Llandrillo College, Rhos on Sea, North Wales
- West College Scotland (Paisley)

An industry Skillcard

BAFSA has worked with BESA/CSCS Ltd to develop and introduce a skilled worker skillcard (blue) to support the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation. The card will contain key information about the holder and is intended to act as a verifier of qualifications held by the learner. Information on the Industry Skillcard can be found on the BAFSA website (bafsa.org.uk).

Career Pathway

BAFSA has developed a Career Pathway to provide a career development framework that aims to support career-long learning and professional development by recognising education and training undertaken. This framework will be available to those who already work within the mechanical fire industry i.e. fire sprinklers and to those considering a career in this varied sector.

It is planned that the qualifications and training opportunities will continue to grow. For the latest information please visit the BAFSA Skills and Development page at bafsa.org.uk

Learning Outcome - the learner will:

BAFSA is often asked what the learning outcomes are for those individuals who partake in the IQ L2 certificate in Sprinkler Installation.

Communicate effectively with others in the workplace D/600/63221.

1. Understand how to communicate with others in the workplace
2. Understand how to record and pass on information
3. Be able to communicate with others in the workplace
4. Be able to record and pass on information

Establish Effective Working Relationships J/601/9694

1. Be able to communicate effectively
2. Be able to establish and maintain positive working relationship
3. Be able to understand relevant organisational procedures for communication and behaviour
4. Be able to provide relevant functional and technical information to the relevant person
5. Understand how to communicate effectively
6. Know about establishing positive working relationships
7. Know about relevant organisational procedures for communication and behaviour
8. Know how to provide relevant functional and technical information to the relevant person(s)

Manage own resources – T/507/3224

1. Understand how to manage own resources
2. Understand how to create and use personal development plans
3. Manage own resources 4. Create and use a personal development plan

Health and Safety in the Workplace A/505/1483

1. Understand roles and responsibilities for health, safety and welfare in the workplace.
2. Understand how risk assessments contribute to health and safety.
3. Understand how to identify and control the risks from common workplace hazards.
4. Know the procedures for responding to accidents and incidents in the workplace.



Awareness of Regulations in the Fire Sprinkler Industry - A/507/3225

1. Understand legislation and standards in the Fire Sprinkler Industry
2. Be able to apply organisational compliance, policies and procedures with the Fire Sprinkler Industry
3. Understand organisational procedures for dealing with non-compliance within the Fire Sprinkler Industry

Fire sprinkler installation and handover - F/507/3226

1. Be able to conduct pre installation checks
2. Be able to prepare work environment for installation of sprinkler system
3. Be able to install pipework and associated components
4. Be able to identify faults after installation
5. Be able to understand limits of responsibility and authority to deal with problems within own role
6. Be able to complete handover procedure for completion of work

Understanding the Fire Sprinkler Industry - J/507/3227

1. Understand the aims and purposes of the Fire Sprinkler Industry
2. Understand the importance of development in Fire Sprinkler Industry
3. Understand the elements of the Fire Sprinkler Industry