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A significant event

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BAFSA and Industry Qualifications Limited was a significant milestone in respect of BAFSA Skills and Qualifications. The agreement underpins the future qualification development activities as set out in the recently developed BAFSA Skills & Qualification Strategy and provides the necessary support for national qualification development within the sector. Both parties look forward to a continuing and excellent, working relationship.

The signing of the memorandum was completed by Sallyann Baldry, Head of Business Development, IQ, and Mike Green, Vice Chair BAFSA and took place on 30th January 2015.

Mike Green said "Having a sufficiently skilled workforce is a major part of BAFSA's focus for the future and our work with IQ will help to achieve this aim. We look forward to working with Sallyann."



See page 8 for full story

Ian Kennedy RIP

BAFSA has just learnt that Ian Kennedy died on the night of 8th March in hospital in Doncaster.

Ian will be known to many BAFSA members as the tireless chair of the Technical Committee between 2002 - 2006 and was a key player in the small group that kept the association going in 2002/3 when times were particularly hard.

Ian started his career with How Fire and then held a senior management position with Taylor Robinson which only ended when that company found itself in difficulties.

Ian then worked with Fire Defence and then latterly with Writtech Industrial Services.

Peter Armstrong, immediate past chairman of BAFSA who worked closely with Ian over many years said: ' Ian was a tower of strength in maintaining BAFSA as a going concern and played a leading role in negotiations with the LPCB not only in respect of the installer certification scheme but on the Expert Groups.

He was a key contributor to the success of the association and a Council stalwart and will be sadly missed by all who knew him'.

from the Chairman

I am honoured to have been elected as Chairman of your association for 2015. In moving forward we cannot forget the unique contribution made to BAFSA by Peter Armstrong since 2000. Without Peter's guidance, inspiration and dedication BAFSA would not be the well funded, active and influential body it is today. I extend my thanks and appreciation to Peter for all his efforts over the last 14 years and extend our best wishes for the future.

Karen Taylor's contribution should also be recognised and appreciated, and I am delighted that Karen will continue to support Council.

2015 is also a year of change at the helm as we complete the succession planning to replace our Secretary General Stewart Kidd who plans to retire at the end of the year. The process of appointing a new Chief Executive (as Council has agreed to name the post) is underway. Selecting the right candidate and ensuring a smooth transition is a priority.

Your Council and our support staff continue to work hard on the association's many initiatives that are underway. We continue to monitor workloads and if additional resources are required we will make sure these are available.

Changes to the BRE/LPC LPS1048 Third party surveillance scheme, and the EN 1284 sprinkler rules will provide additional challenges and costs to our industry.

The growth of interest in other types of fire suppression systems provides an opportunity, but at the same time, the existence of non-compliant systems continues to be a concern.

Our focus will continue on skills and qualifications development and good progress is being made. However we continue to need your support in this very important initiative.

New members are the key to any trade association's future success. Therefore it is important that we continue to publicise the benefits of BAFSA membership. We would ask all of you to become ambassadors for BAFSA and encourage new members to join us. Check out the BAFSA website which is an excellent resource.

BAFSA Council elects Officers



BAFSA's new Chairman: John McCann, Vipond Fire

Officers

Chairman:

John McCann

Vice Chairman:

Mike Green, Hall Fire Protection

Treasurer:

Kate Scourfield, Tyco BSP

Manufacturers & Suppliers

Rapidrop Global
Reliable Fire Sprinkler (UK)
Tyco BSP
Victaulic
Viking Supplynet

Installers

Armstrong Priestley
Automatic Fire Control
Domestic Sprinklers
Hall Fire Protection
Hall & Kay Fire Engineering
Pyro Protection
Tyco FIS (UK)
Vipond Fire Protection
A & F Sprinklers

Associates

FM Global Insurance
South Yorkshire FRS
Staffordshire FRS

Chief Executive - British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association



Salary and terms negotiable

BAFSA is the UK's trade association for the water-based fire suppression industry and celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014.

The association's professional head is the Chief Executive (formerly Secretary General) who is responsible for all aspects of the corporate and commercial activities of the association. The present incumbent has been in post since April 2000 and works on a part-time basis supported by a number of dedicated part-time professionals.

BAFSA's Council is seeking to appoint a suitably experienced and qualified individual to take on this demanding role. The post will be available on either a full- or part-time basis.

Salary is negotiable depending on the terms under which the appointment is made and while the association's offices are presently located in Ely, these

could be re-located to suit the new appointee.

First interviews will take place on 29th April. It is hoped that the new appointee will be able to take up the post of Chief Executive (Designate) on 1 September 2015 and work in parallel with the incumbent Secretary General to ensure a smooth take-over at the end of 2015.

Applications should be submitted in writing making it clear how the applicant meets the various demands of the appointment. Applications should be received by 21 March and should be marked 'Personal' and sent to:

The Chairman
BAFSA, Richmond House,
Broad Street, Ely CB7 4AH
or
chairman@bafsa.org.uk

A job description, person specification and further information can be found at: <http://www.firesprinklerevents.com/job-spec-bafsa-ce.pdf>

Warehouse & logistics facilities seminars

BAFSA in conjunction with the fire & rescue services and insurers has now run three, day-long seminars to provide authoritative advice on managing fire safety in modern logistics facilities. The programme is designed to highlight that modern logistics practice, while providing significant cost and time savings for retail and b2b distribution, have created significant risks by virtue of the concentration of assets represented by very large warehouses and distribution depots.

More than 300 people have benefitted from attending these vital events and with the next two filling up fast, we are now seeking to run at least four more events around the country specifically in the North East and North West, Home Counties West and London.

We intend delegates will leave with a greater knowledge and understanding of sprinklers and the recognition that sprinklers prevent major losses by turning what could be a potential disaster into a minor inconvenience and they do so with irrefutable reliability and are an essential part of any organisation's "business resilience tool kit".

At the end of 2014 more than 70 delegates came to the MK Dons' stadium in Milton Keynes for the third of these

events. Hosted by Buckinghamshire FRS, delegates from the warehouse industry along with insurers, regional FRS personnel and consultants benefitted from a full and varied programme.

In February, BAFSA with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) also held a joint seminar to highlight the continuing fire losses in commercial warehouses and similar premises, together with demonstrating the value of automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Clare Adamson MSP (Central Scotland SNP), strong advocate of sprinklers, particularly for the elderly and for the protection of firefighters launched the event. Clare spoke of the work carried out by the Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness.

The aim of the seminar was about protecting firefighters, reducing fire losses, saving jobs and protecting the environment, however automatic fire sprinklers also give Scottish warehouses a commercial advantage.

Scottish Building Standards allow for greater compartment sizes when automatic fire sprinklers are fitted. While there may be fewer fires in warehouses than in

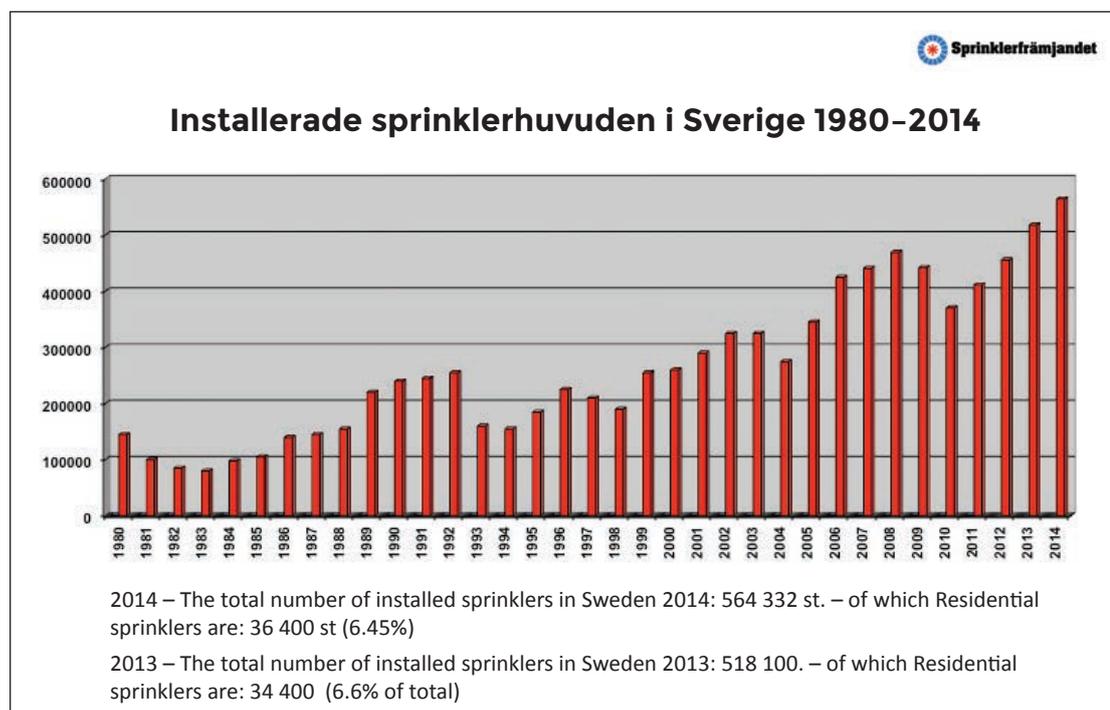


Mark Jones, Buckinghamshire Chief Fire Officer opening the Warehouse & Logistics Facilities seminar in Milton Keynes.

manufacturing, the impact on business in financial terms can be disproportionately higher through loss of property, stock and the costs of business interruption.

With the ever-increasing awareness of the impact on the environment of the products of combustion and of contaminated fire fighting water, a reduction of any kind would be beneficial. Between 25 million and 18 billion litres of water are used to fight all unsprinklered commercial and industrial fires nationally per year, only 4.3 million litres of water would be used per year to fight these same fires if automatic fire sprinklers protected the buildings.

Record results



Sweden and Norway have published results which reflect record installations in 2014 with a total of 564,332 sprinkler heads installed. An increase compared to 2013 with + 46,232 sprinkler heads which was previously the best year since Sweden began keeping statistics, which means an increase of more than 8.9%.

'BAFSA welcomes these very useful figures which demonstrate not only the progressions being made in market penetration but also the growth of the industry. Such information from the UK market would be equally helpful'

RIBA approved

The Business Sprinkler Alliance has recently expanded the availability of its very popular RIBA-approved CPD Courses. There are now three modules available:

1. Introduction to fire sprinklers: from domestic to warehousing and between
 2. Introduction to fire sprinklers in heritage buildings
 3. Introduction to fire sprinkler in warehouses and single-storey buildings
- BAFSA presently delivers all these courses on behalf of the BSA and is currently working to expand the number of modules to five in 2015. The courses can be booked by RIBA members through riba-insight.com

EN 12845 revision

EN 12845: *Fixed firefighting systems - Automatic sprinkler systems - Design, installation and maintenance*. Updates to this standard have been prepared by CEN 191/WG 5 and the final draft is currently being considered by the national organisations.

Initial results suggest EN 12845:2015 will be approved for publication, probably in early summer. BAFSA have drafted a new National Forward for the English language version clarifying the status of 'life safety' systems as Annex F now no longer uses that term

- Other revisions include EN 12845 Rev. 1:
- Where ceiling only sprinklers are installed above storage and the distance between storage is more than 4 m,t. The new requirement will be: increase the water density for the first excessive metre by 2,5 mm/min and for each additional metre, increase the water density by 1 mm/min. OR install intermediate sprinklers in the storage racks.
 - New note about trapped air in 'gridded' installations - provide means to reduce excessive trapped air in 'gridded' installations
 - Removal of the requirement for sprinkler pumps to have a 'stable' curve.
 - Annex F: Retitled 'Additional measures to improve system reliability and availability'
 - Annex M (Informative): Independent Certification Bodies (1 page)
 - New Annex N : Control Mode Specific Application Sprinklers – CMSA (8 pages)
 - New Annex O: Examples of a P&ID for sprinkler system (1 page)
 - New Annex P: ESFR Sprinkler design (17 pages)

It is not clear at what point BSi will withdraw the 2009 version of the standard.

You can view the web page of CEN 191 WG5 at <http://goo.gl/JvmWcN>

£1m investment



Three Southampton tower blocks are to get automatic fire suppression systems following a £1m investment by the city council. Each individual flat, and some communal areas such as bin stores at Albion Towers, Sturminster House and Shirley Towers will be protected by a sprinkler system. The council said the work would be paid for by its Housing Revenue Account.

This comes after two firefighters, Jim Shears and Alan Bannon died in a fire at Shirley Towers on 6 April 2010. They became entangled in cables that had fallen from the ceiling as they battled a blaze in a ninth-floor flat. Following an inquest into the

firefighters' deaths in 2013, a change in the wiring regulations will come into force in July which will require electrical cables to be mounted in metal trunking instead of plastic.

The plans for the sprinklers have been backed by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. In a statement, the service said: "Sprinklers are the most effective way to ensure that fires are suppressed or even extinguished before the fire service can arrive.

They save lives and reduce injuries, protect firefighters who attend incidents and reduce the amount of damage to both property and the environment from fire."

BS EN 12845: 2015 and the LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations 2015

BAFSA members will be aware that a revision of BS EN 12845 will be published in the summer of 2015. It's not yet clear when this will be, but probably in August.

The FPA have confirmed that they will produce an updated set of the LPC Rules which will incorporate the full text of the BS EN.

However it's not clear whether they will be able to produce a full set of amended Technical Bulletins at the same time as BSi publish the BS EN.

It's possible that the TBs may be published in batches throughout the year meaning that subscribers and purchasers will receive the folder containing the BS EN together with some TBs and Part 3 documents at the same time as the BSi publish the standard. TBs will then be dispatched at no extra cost as and when they are published.

BAFSA have negotiated a discount with the FPA which will entitle all BAFSA members to be able to purchase the 2015 LPC Rules at the FPA member price.

Problems with watermist standards

The proposal by BSI to convert the existing industrial and commercial watermist BS DD series into a full BS appears to be delayed by a series of objections to the contents of the Drafts for Public Comment in respect of BS DD 8489 Parts 1 and 7. It is understood that serious objections to the DPC's have been tabled by the FPA who are reportedly acting for some of the members of RISC Authority.

A compromise has been proposed which would see BS 8489 published as a guide rather than a code of practice.

BAFSA had expressed support in principal for all parts of the DPC with the exception of Part 7 which deals with low hazard occupancies. BAFSA's view was this was too widely drawn and should restrict itself to the same hazards as are covered by the Low Hazard Occupancies as in BS EN 12845.

Bob Whiteley, the chair of the BSI committee dealing with the reviews and chair of the UK Mist WG said:

"The working group, which includes representatives of two major insurers, has been working hard to address FPA's concerns and believe we have made significant progress.

FPA have agreed to review their position once the final draft is available".



Communicating the benefits of sprinklers

The second annual Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Fire Sprinkler Week will be taking place from 16 – 22 March. Part of a three-year campaign, this year's theme is business continuity, aiming to communicate knowledge of the benefits that sprinklers can offer to businesses and schools.

The week is intended to raise awareness, in a range of business and school settings, explaining how sprinklers can protect premises and reduce fire damage if a fire breaks out.

We aim to show that in many business settings, a compelling and convincing business case proves that the potential impacts on business resulting from a fire, are significantly higher than the costs of installing and maintaining sprinkler systems.

Fire and Rescue Services, who engage with the business community in a number of ways, can help spread the sprinkler message to a wide audience.

It's not just businesses that Fire Sprinkler Week is targeting: schools are a key audience too. Coverage of fires in educational settings, such as the fire at Glasgow School of Art, provide a reminder of the importance of these institutions to not only staff and students, but to local communities too.

A key aim of the week will be to dispel some of the myths about sprinklers, such as that in a fire all sprinkler heads activate at once, as well as highlighting that the financial cost of fitting sprinklers may not be as much as is believed.

In addition to BAFSA and CFOA, planning and support for Fire Sprinkler Week has been provided by the Business Sprinkler Alliance, National Fire Sprinkler Network, Local Government Association and the Fire Protection Association.



Ben Ansell, ACFO Dorset FRS; Sprinkler Lead, CFOA

Have your say

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority has commissioned BRE to carry out a detailed review of the working of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, known as the Fire Safety Order (FSO).

Topics to be explored include:

- its effectiveness and cost
- complexity, intelligibility and consistency of the FSO
- any conflicts, misalignment or overlaps with other legislation
- adequacy and effectiveness of available guidance.

The study is not focussing solely on London but naturally is calling extensively on the London experience. Some specific questions to be addressed include:

- whether a single regime for different classes of premises is sensible
- do the necessary tools and competencies (and competent persons) for the task exist
- which bodies have responsibility for ensuring the overall effectiveness of the regime and how are these bodies performing,
- are there any problems and any possible improvements for the future
- has the RRO been (or could be) effective in reducing avoidable fires and, as a consequence, death, injury and loss of property.

BRE are aware that many within the fire safety industry have views on the FSO and this project provides an opportunity to collate such views if you would like to share them.

BRE will be happy to record such information anonymously if you wish. Email responses to Martin Shipp at shippm@bre.co.uk and cc Steve Manchester at ManchesterS@bre.co.uk

sprinkler saves

November



4th - school: Stevenage

Herts FRS responded to a fire at the £8.7m. Marriott's and Lonsdale School in Stevenage at 1230 hrs. A fire was started in a WC cubicle when a toilet roll was ignited which actuated a smoke detector and raised the alarm. A single recessed sprinkler head activated, located in the ceiling above the cubicle, which suppressed and contained the fire until the arrival of the fire service. Fire damage was limited to a small area of about 5m² within the WC and the damage caused was estimated at about £1k.

The school carried out its well-rehearsed evacuation procedure from one compartment only, while the mobility impaired children were able to remain in their half of the school whilst the fire was dealt with. No pupils or staff were reported to have been injured.

"The need for sprinkler protection to be extended to lavatories is often questioned and is frequently suggested as a method of cutting the cost of sprinkler protection in schools and public buildings. This incident demonstrates just what a false economy this could be".
BAFSA



11th - school: London

London Fire Brigade's fire crews were called to an automatic fire alarm system actuating at a three storey secondary school in St Mary's Road

in Newham, East London. On searching the zone indicated they found the school's sprinkler system had extinguished a fire involving a 12kW electric kiln which was located in a cupboard in an Art and Technology classroom

A single sprinkler head, located inside the cupboard, had operated and extinguished the fire. No firefighting action was required and crews were then engaged in 'salvage' operations.

"This incident not only confirms the value of sprinkler systems but demonstrates how all such cupboards should be protected whether this is required by the standard or not." **BAFSA**



13th - high rise flat: Lewisham, London

A chip pan fire occurred at an apartment block at Waterside Heights, Lewisham, London. The tenant is reported to have tried to move the blazing chip pan but due to the heat was unable to keep hold of it causing the pan and contents to spill.

One sprinkler head in the room activated and extinguished the fire. Fire damage was limited so that the flat remained habitable and though the tenant suffered shock, fortunately no serious injury resulted.



29th mobile homes' factory: Humberside

Humberside fire crews arrived to find a large amount of smoke issuing from the building. The fire involved a caravan located on a production

line The sprinkler system had activated and contained the fire to an area of approximately 50m². At this point the plastic roof of the caravan collapsed inwards, releasing a large amount of heat and flame which travelled up to the roof space, and then horizontally across. This resulted in the further activation of approximately another 80 sprinkler heads.

Despite the large number of operating heads, the sprinkler system functioned as designed.

The sprinkler system continued to operate until the fire had been fully extinguished by fire service personnel. The result of the activation was that fire damage was limited and confined and it was estimated that the production line would be up and running approximately one week after the fire.

December



2nd - hotel: London

At around 1940 hours, hotel guests were evacuated from the London Hilton hotel in Mayfair after a fire broke out in a bedroom. Around 100 guests were evacuated from the upmarket hotel as a precaution last night.

Sprinklers in the hotel in Park Lane, helped extinguish the fire and the London Fire Brigade said it was under control just after 2100hrs.

Two rooms were left damaged by the blaze and are currently not being used by guests. There were no reports of any injuries.

"The sprinkler system did a good job and without it, it could have been a different story."

“This fire highlights the clear benefits of sprinklers to businesses like the hotel industry. There is no doubt that in this case the sprinkler system prevented a more serious fire from spreading into other areas of the hotel and causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.” Mark Andrews, London Fire Brigade Deputy Assistant Commissioner



6th/7th – hotel: Birmingham

At about 2200 hrs on Saturday 6th December, at the end of the working day, a tumble dryer was unloaded at the leisure centre situated in the lower floors of the hotel. CCTV footage showed that at about 0300 on Sunday 7th, a fire started in a laundry basket due to spontaneous combustion of the drying towelling material.

The fire alarm alerted staff and guests to the situation and one sprinkler head activated to suppress/extinguish the fire before the arrival of West Midlands FRS.

“This is the fourth recent incident of which we are aware where a fire has started in laundered towels - it is likely that some oily residue may have been present in this incident, the most likely source would have been massage or aromatherapy oil. Those responsible for managing fire safety in hotels or day spas should be alerted to this hazard.” BAFSA

January



1st – flat: Slough

A fire which was believed to have been started by smoking materials activated a sprinkler system in a flat at Laurence Way, Slough at about 0900 hrs on New Year’s Day.

Neighbours called the fire and rescue service when the alarm activated.

A spokesman for Royal Berkshire FRS said two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus then managed to extinguish the fire in the corner of the lounge diner.



22nd – felt works: West Yorkshire

At about 191hrs a successful sprinkler activation occurred at a felt works in Ossett, West Yorkshire following a fire during the felt making process.

Initially, 4 x 141°C heads on the alternate, pump fed system operated and staff also used hose-reels to douse the fire.

During removal of smouldering baled material from the machine, a further 2 x 68°C head separated. The five members of staff present then continued to wet the material until extinguished.

The whole sprinkler system was reinstated by 2300hrs.

February



6th – shopping centre: Northampton

This was a Hot Work Fire which took place at a time when few people would have been around and demonstrates the danger from even simple maintenance activities.

Northamptonshire FRS received a call at 0145hrs to a fire in a maintenance room at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre in Union Street, Northampton.

The fire is understood to have started when heat from a workman’s grinder set fire to wooden shelving in the maintenance room.

One sprinkler head on the Ordinary Hazard, mains fed sprinkler system, operated within the room of origin to control the fire.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and using 1 hose-reel were then able to extinguish the fire. Damage from the incident was limited to the room of origin only.

The 7,000m², three storey building, valued at over £10 million was occupied by 20 persons at the time of the fire. None was reported injured in the incident.



16th – factory: Humberside

Humberside FRS responded to a fire in a compressor room at a North Lincolnshire food processing factory.

The fire started in a compressor motor in the 15m x 10m room at the plant. The sprinklers in the room prevented the fire from spreading and causing more damage and the fire was recorded as being ‘out’ by the time the FRS arrived.

**“This activation meant that fire-fighters did not have to be committed to a risk area to fight a fire and were only required to enter the compartment to confirm the fire was out prior to turning off the sprinkler system.”
Humberside FRS**



23rd – packaging plant: Winsford

Sprinkler systems installed at Jiffy Packaging meant that damage from a blaze in machinery was kept to a minimum. Two fire engines, one from Winsford and one from Northwich, were called to Winsford Industrial Estate at 1000 hrs, after a fire broke out in a piece of machinery.

The company’s sprinkler system had activated which ensured the fire did not spread and was confined to the machine. The two crews arrived minutes after receiving the call and were able to put out the blaze inside the machine using a hose reel jet, before inspecting the connected ducting using height safety equipment and a thermal imaging camera.

Staff had evacuated the buildings as a precaution but were allowed back inside as soon as the firefighters had confirmed the fire was out.

“Had there been no sprinkler system installed the damage could have been much greater - it has certainly kept this company in business.” Cheshire FRS’ Head of Prevention and Protection, Keith Brooks

Pilot project in Wales

On the 30th April 2014, the Welsh Government implemented the first phase of changes to devolved building regulations brought about by the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure 2011. As a result, all new and converted care homes, hospices, children's residential homes, certain hostels, boarding houses and student's halls of residences, constructed in Wales, must now be protected by automatic fire sprinkler systems. However, on the 1st January 2016, the sprinkler requirement will be extended to include all new residential dwellings - including houses and flats.

To prepare for this significant change the Building Research Establishment (BRE

Global) has been commissioned to monitor a series of building projects incorporating fire sprinkler systems, in certain social housing schemes across Wales. From this study it is hoped that information regarding 'best practice' for design and installation of sprinklers, will be identified and subsequently made available to both enforcers and other stakeholders.

So far 15 separate new developments involving approximately 200 social housing units, are to be fitted with sprinklers in accordance with BS 9251: 2014.

Unfortunately one of the original 16 developments identified for funding has withdrawn from the study due to problems

with planning approval. The majority of the schemes are new build although two are conversions which may create additional challenges. They cover all the various relevant housing categories i.e. flats, bungalows, houses, extra care schemes and supported housing.

Work has recently commenced in St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan, and a number of the other schemes are expected to start shortly although there appears to be some concern at the Welsh Assembly that delays with the remaining projects may jeopardise a timely release of the report.

Ian Gough, BAFSA Technical Advisor

Implications of the MOU with IQ

Under the terms of the MOU between Industry Qualifications (IQ) and BAFSA, IQ, intend to collaborate with BAFSA on the development of a framework of qualifications for the fire sprinkler industry.

IQ is an awarding organisation which develops and offers nationally recognised qualifications, approved by the various UK government's qualifications regulators.

Working with an IQ will ensure that those delivering qualifications ie colleges, training providers, and employers satisfy strict quality measures before approval to deliver our BAFSA qualifications is awarded. These quality measures encompass an institution's systems and processes; the credentials of teaching staff; facilities and premises; and the level and quality of support they provide to their students.

Sally Ann Baldry, Head of Business Development at IQ, has been working with the Skills & Development Committee to ensure that the new L2 qualification for sprinkler installation meets the extensive requirements of the qualification regulator.

Within the MOU, IQ intends to:

- provide an accreditation service to BAFSA, where both parties identify business benefits such as increased demand and attractiveness to the learner of providing nationally recognised qualifications or accredited units.
- offer guidance and expertise on assessment processes and methodologies

to enable learner achievement of the qualifications for the fire sprinkler industry.

- develop qualifications that are compliant with requirements for submission onto the selected national framework.
- support BAFSA to identify and set up a number of regional training providers to be approved as IQ centres to ensure prospective employees and employees of BAFSA member organisations have ready access to the qualifications. (Numbers and location of early adopter training providers to be agreed in an action plan).
- create and agree an action plan with BAFSA for the development and marketing of the qualifications from spring 2015.

With BAFSA undertaking the following:

- select IQ as its awarding body of choice for future accreditation requirements.
- commit to working with IQ for a minimum period of three years.
- promote the qualifications to BAFSA member organisations to encourage high levels of take-up. Targets and forecasts to be developed in an action plan developed within the BAFSA Skills and Development Committee.



BAFSA Skills and Development committee hard at work

- support IQ in ensuring the technical content and designated assessment of the qualifications is at industry standard and fully compliant with industry practice and to advise IQ when updating is required.
- support IQ in identifying external verifiers who are fire sprinkler industry competent.

*Ruth Oliver,
BAFSA Technical Advisor*

Interesting times for the residential & domestic sector

It's been an interesting and exciting 2014 for the Residential and Domestic sprinkler sector.

The BAFSA initiative project at Callow Mount, Sheffield has come to fruition with a multitude of residential & domestic sprinkler system installations being instigated by the local authorities within the Sheffield area. This can be directly accredited to the efforts of BAFSA and its members in successfully demonstrating the feasibility of designing and retro-fitting cost-effective sprinkler systems into sensitive environments without displacing vulnerable residents from their homes.

This hopefully will prove to be a major incentive in alleviating doubts to the consideration and implementation of such systems as a viable compensatory asset to overcome similar issues throughout the UK in the future.

The primary point of interest though has to be the implementation of the updated BS9251: 2014 which superceded BS9251: 2005 as of 31st October 2014.

As Chairman of the BAFSA Residential & Domestic Sprinkler systems sub-technical committee, it is particularly pleasing to report that an extensive proportion of the BAFSA Technical Guidance Note No.1 was referenced and adopted by the various working groups leading up to its publication.

What is also pleasing to note is that the new Code of Practice appears to have slotted in to place without too much difficulty.

It was anticipated that there would be a succession of queries requesting points of clarification but, thus far, these have proved to be few and far between. Certainly in my alternative role as a FIRAS third party inspector, I am seeing a far more consistent quality of work being undertaken, particularly in the area of design.

Let's hope it continues. To quote the BSI logo on the front cover of BS9251: 2014 may we all be "making excellence a habit".

My huge thanks to all those members who have supported and contributed to the Residential & Domestic sprinkler Sub-Technical Committee without who's help we would not be moving forward in such a positive way.

*Ray Hammond,
Chairman, Residential & Domestic Committee*

BAFSA welcomes four new members

J&J Design Ltd
(LPCB Level 4 Installer)

M&P Dry Risers Limited
(LPCB Level 1 Installer)

Tindall Fabrications
(Associate Trade)

AXA Insurance UK plc
(Associate Organisation)



The European perspective

The first revision of EN 12845 has been approved by the members of CEN and is expected to be published in August. Meanwhile work continues on the second revision, with a first draft expected later this year. That draft will go to BSI and the other members of CEN for enquiry and the CEN committee must then consider all the comments, so a second draft for approval will not be ready until 2017 and publication is unlikely before 2018. prEN12259-14, the residential sprinkler component standard, has been circulated for enquiry and the CEN committee will start to review the comments in March. A second version for approval should be ready later this year or early 2016. In parallel, the draft residential sprinkler system design, installation and maintenance standard is expected to be circulated for enquiry in a few months.

We are hopeful that Approved Document B, which is the regulatory fire safety

guidance used to design buildings, will begin a review later this year following the election in May. That will be an opportunity to see more regulatory incentives or requirements for sprinklers to be installed in buildings. Meanwhile BS 9991, which is an alternative to Approved Document B and includes several important incentives to use sprinklers, is under review. The draft for public comment will be published in April and will bring in a few more incentives for sprinklers. BS 9991 covers residential buildings, while BS 9999 covers most other buildings. BS 9999 is also under review and the draft for public comment is expected to be published in April 2016."

On 14th April EFSN will jointly host a seminar with TUYAK in Istanbul at the Hilton Bosphorus Hotel. Delegate registration is now open www.sprinkleristanbul2015.com

Alan Brinson, EFSN

A sustainable economic legacy

The last three months have seen considerable increases in the sustainable economic recovery in Scotland. RICS reports that Scotland and Northern Ireland's housing market outperformed the rest of the UK in January, with more buyer enquiries, stronger price growth and higher confidence in the outlook. It is hoped that this continuing growth will counter the effects of the recession, secure a high quality environment and provide a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The fitting of automatic fire sprinklers is providing part of this sustainable legacy, it is clear there is increasing interest from Scottish Government in the long term benefits provided by the investment in the long term protection of people and buildings.

The partnership working with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service continues to go from strength to strength. In November BAFSA provided training for forty SFRS officers. SFRS reciprocated both in November and in February by hosting two sprinkler seminars at their Training Centre in the East end of Glasgow.

Almost eighty delegates attended the sprinklers for housing seminar in November and one hundred and twenty delegates attended the warehouse seminar in February.

Further seminars are planned for later this year including a care home seminar in the North East of Scotland and a Local Authority

Seminar at the SFRS Training Centre, full details will be available on BAFSA's website in due course.

BAFSA was invited by Clare Adamson MSP to present at the Cross Party Parliamentary Safety Group in January. A presentation on the advantages of fitting automatic fire sprinklers to provide greater safety for the elderly was well received by an audience of more than forty attendees including a number of MSPs and partners from supporting organisations.

Clare is also supporting a debate in the Scottish Parliament to encourage the retrofitting of automatic fire sprinklers in existing care homes and sheltered housing; this will be followed by a Parliamentary reception also hosted by Clare.

The cost benefit analysis into the fitting of automatic fire sprinklers for houses, flats, houses in multiple occupation and halls of residence being carried out on behalf of Scottish Government is nearing conclusion and the results are expected in March 2015. As soon as the results of this study are released we will publish them on the BAFSA website.

The Scottish Building Standards Division published additional guidance in February 2015 on the fitting of Automatic Fire Suppression Systems in Whisky Maturation Warehouses and Storage Buildings



Clare Adamson MSP

(Class 1). The guidance can be accessed through this link: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00469548.pdf>

Keith MacGillivray,
Sprinklers Scotland

Fire statistics

The Scottish Government has recently published the fire statistics for Scotland for the period 2013-2014. The headline statistics are as follows:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service attended 27,979 fires in Scotland during 2013-2014.
- the number of primary fires decreased by 5% compared to the previous year.
- there were 33 fatal fire casualties in 2013-14, a decrease of 13 (28%) on the previous year's figures.
- nine out of ten of the fatalities were in dwelling houses and 83% of the fires were started accidentally.
- Scotland continues to have a higher number of fire fatalities per million populations compared with England and Wales, however the gap is narrowing.

In 2013-2014 the figure for Scotland per million was 6.2 compared with 5.1 for England and 5.5 for Wales.

- the most common cause of death was being overcome by smoke and the most common cause of ignition was smoker's materials and matches.
- fire fatality figures were far higher for people aged 60 and over, almost double the national average.
- during the period almost 50% of all fatal casualties in dwelling houses occurred where there was a smoke alarm present, which either did not operate or failed to raise the alarm.

These figures, while an improvement on previous years still present a very strong argument for the fitting of automatic fire sprinklers in all housing.

A loss to the industry

Sadly for the sprinkler industry we have to announce the retirement of Martin Hartley. Martin represented his company, Argus Fire Protection, on the BAFSA Council for many years and in 2010 he became Vice Chairman.

Martin has always been a strong supporter of BAFSA and he ably filled the role of Chair of the Technical Committee and also represented the UK's interests at CEN and was also our representative at RISCA. We shall miss his wise council and swift mind always able to provide a response to even the most arcane technical query. We would like to wish Martin all the very best for the future.....wherever that may take him.

Technical Support activities

Over the past 12 months last year BAFSA Technical Support has assisted and advised many individuals and organisations on a variety of subjects relating not just to sprinkler systems but also wet/dry risers, fire hydrants and hose reels.

These enquiries have come from many different sources, both nationally and internationally, including individuals involved in fire protection design and install and those who need help in understanding what they need to do to comply with fire safety in their building. In most cases the technical advice is received through the Enquiry form on the BAFSA website or direct to info@bafsa.org.uk.

The following are examples of the type of enquiries that we have dealt with:

- How near can a sprinkler be installed to walls/partitions?
- Spacing, location and type of brackets required on dry risers?
- Maximum room size for Light Hazard systems
- Clearance above sprinkler heads
- Protection of hazardous chemical warehouse
- Approval of hangers/supports for sprinkler pipes.
- Wet riser water storage tank fill pipe.
- Chlorination of sprinkler water supplies.
- Advice on electric and diesel pump controllers.
- Ceiling depth requirements for sprinkler pipes.
- Acceptable sources of water for a sprinkler system
- Maintenance requirements for sprinkler systems.
- Acceptable locations for sprinkler alarm valves.
- Drainage requirements when testing/drainage sprinkler systems.
- Zoning of sprinkler Installations.
- CPVC pipe supports.
- Sprinkler protection of food storage freezers.
- Housing requirements for sprinkler pumps.
- Dry riser – routing of pipes and location of inlet boxes.
- Wet riser – space requirements for inlet locations
- Fire hydrants – pressure rating
- Duration of alarm when activated by a sprinkler system.
- Sprinkler tank maintenance frequency, linings and survey
- Disposal and recycling of diesel pump cooling water

*Joe McCafferty,
BAFSA Technical Advisor*

Rates, regeneration & regulation

In mid-January, the Business Sprinkler Alliance's chairman, Iain Cox, and Andrew Turner met with two Department of Communities and Local Government Ministers.

The Business Rates Minister Kris Hopkins wanted to discuss the BSA's proposal that sprinklers be exempted from the classification as plant and machinery for business rates. CLG's interest in the proposal was rekindled following last year's Westminster Hall debate on sprinklers when a number of MPs highlighted this perverse disincentive for companies to install sprinklers. The Minister explained that he is fully aware of the benefits of sprinklers from his work before politics and he encouraged the BSA to take its proposal to the Treasury which will now lead a planned review of the Business Rates.

Penny Mordaunt, the CLG Fire Minister, sought advice from the BSA on the protection of heritage buildings to inform her programme for coastal regeneration. Her concern is to ensure the resilience and longevity of any renovations in light of recent pier fires.

Both meetings also provided the opportunity to explain the BSA's objectives and actions and to put them in the context of Government policy and the anticipated review of the fire safety provisions (ABD) of the Building Regulations. The review proper



is expected to start after the General election and so the BSA will be using the coming months to continue to share its views and the research with the Building Regulations Advisory Committee and with interested

parties involved in the commissioning, design and build of commercial buildings.

*Andrew Turner,
Business Sprinkler Alliance*

members' round up

Sofa ambience

Mechanical Services have completed a project for Sofaworks in Leicester – taking care of all of the mechanical installation for their new store – this included full ventilation and brand new air conditioning units for the ground floor and mezzanine level, ensuring that Sofaworks customers enjoy a perfect ambient temperature whilst they concentrate on choosing what sofa they like the best!

Grafter nomination

AD Sprinklers have been nominated for a Grafters Award. Grafters is an organisation solely dedicated to networking & celebrating the North West Construction Industry.

Rebrand



Lancashire based, Associate Trade BAFSA member has rebranded sporting a new logo and website www.zeffire.com

Office move

First Insurance Solutions has moved to new offices which are much larger and reflect the growth of the company.

The new address is FIS House, Centre 3000, St Leonards Road, Allington, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS.

First in Gloucester

RSP Sprinklers Wales, working in conjunction with EmmDee Building Services, have just completed Gloucester City Homes' first retrofit installation to the only high rise block of flats in the City of Gloucester: Clapham Court, an eleven storey block of 80 flats providing sheltered housing for elderly residents.

Gloucester City Homes, aware of the special risks fires present in high rise blocks, and in particular the Lakanal House tragedy, decided on the installation to both protect the lives of their residents and to reduce the amount of damage a fire may cause which undoubtedly would considerably reduce the level of disruption to the building's occupiers and managers.

The local Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service inspected and willingly endorsed the installation recognising the protection that will now be afforded to both the residents and firefighters. Another significant benefit recognised by Gloucester FRS was the likely reduction in callouts resulting from false alarms caused by smoke arising from minor incidents such as burning toast, whereas a sprinkler activated alarm is most likely to be as a result of an actual life threatening fire.

Ashley Green, Chief Executive of Gloucester City Homes said: 'The health and welfare of our residents is paramount to GCH. The installation of the sprinkler system enhances the safety provided in the event of a fire. This is another example of GCH's commitment to deliver safer homes and communities for residents.'

The sprinkler system water supply is provided by the existing domestic storage tank and boosted supply which provides sufficient storage capacity, flow, and pressure to adequately fulfil the demands of both the average domestic demand and sprinkler requirements.



Flexible system



Rascoflex from Reliable Fire Sprinkler UK is the flexible sprinkler system for wet and dry pipe systems which sets new standards for simplicity.

The innovative design of Rascoflex easily positions the sprinkler in the centre of the ceiling tile at the correct height to significantly reduce installation times. This incredibly efficient system is available in 5 different lengths, two different reducers and two outlet nipples.

Reliable have also launched a residential flat plate concealed, horizontal sidewall sprinkler for the protection of larger rooms. The RFS42 is cULus Listed for sprinkler coverage up to 4.9m x 6.1m. It has flat cover plates for a flush, concealed in wall look which are available in a wide variety of colours and finishes.

Essex retrofits

The retrofit of residential fire sprinklers at the 15 storey Parkside Court in Chelmsford was completed in 8 weeks by Triangle Fire Systems. Parkside Court is the only tower block owned by CHP, an Essex based non-profit social housing provider. The project was partly funded by Essex County Fire and Rescue Services's 'think sprinkler strategy'

As principal contractor Triangle were responsible for the design, supply and installation of the fire sprinkler system and associated builders work to the flats and communal areas.

The site survey highlighted difficulties particularly in the core drilling of holes for the riser and the ability to conceal the sprinkler heads. It was eventually agreed that the pipe work would be surface mounted through the hallways and drill through into the rooms within each flat. A false ceiling and new lights to conceal the corridor pipework would then be installed.

54 lived-in flats and 14 corridors were fully protected with a fire sprinkler system complete with newly installed hallway ceilings and low energy down lights. Dean Davidson, surveying and contracts manager at CHP said: "We believe sprinklers offer the most efficient means to give occupants time to escape or be rescued as well as control fires and minimise damage to property"

Triangle were subsequently awarded the contract for Mornington House, the second residential block in Essex to be fully fitted



with a sprinkler system thanks to the county's FRS scheme and they are currently completing a number of retrofit programmes including sprinkler systems in Southwark and London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. These projects and others awarded will mean the retrofit of sprinklers to social housing will be Triangle's largest area of growth.

Library latest

BIF 11 : Sprinkler & the Fire and Rescue Service

Part 1 of this document provides information useful for firefighters and community fire safety personnel. It covers the applications and benefits of sprinklers and the technology installed in residential and commercial buildings as well as the firefighting considerations.

Part 2 provides advice on the benefits and use of sprinklers in fire and rescue service buildings.

With a fully equipped Type B water tender now costing in excess of £500,000 it should be clear that modern approaches to asset protection should be adopted for such concentrations of resources.

BIF 26 : Sprinklers and the Insurance Industry

It's no exaggeration to say that the insurance industry was the impetus for the development of the automatic fire sprinkler system and this new BIF highlights the importance of the relationship between Insurers, Industry and end users.

Insurers have always also played a key role in the development and formulation of standards for fire protection sprinkler systems and this BIF reflects on the key areas the insurance industry has, and continues to, influence.

New DVD

Wise Up To Fire - Sprinklers for Safety in large single storey facilities and warehouses.

This is the latest in the BAFSA library of DVDs. Developed around the 2014 Cebr and BRE reports; recent fires and experiences and latest technology, this DVD will be an essential tool for any professional discussing the benefits of installing automatic fire sprinklers in warehouses and logistics facilities.

These and all other BAFSA publications can be found at www.bafsa.org.uk

2015/16 dates

	Event	Dates and Venues
2015		
March		
16-22 March	CFOA Sprinkler Week	National
18 March	BAFSA Warehouse Seminar	Burton on Trent
19 March	BAFSA Warehouse Seminar	Cardiff
27 March	Skills & Development	Compco
April		
7 April	SF&RS Sprinkler Demo	Turriff, Aberdeenshire
10 April	RIBA CPD	Bermondsey, London
16 April	RIBA CPD	Shoreditch, London
22 April	Comms & Market Development/Marketing	Tyco Manchester
22 April	Technical	Victaulic, Stevenage
May		
6 May	Council	South Yorks FRS
21 May	Sprinkler Reception (by invitation only)	Scottish Parliament
June		
3 June	BAFSA Golf/BAFSA Challenge Family Day	Marriott Forest of Arden
26 June	Skills & Development	Compco
July		
1 July	Technical	Hall Fire, Manchester
8 July	Executive + staff	TBA
15 July	Comms & Market Development/Marketing	Victaulic, Stevenage
22 July	Council	Rapidrop, Peterborough
September		
9 September	Executive	TBA
9 September	LABC CPD	London
16 September	Council	Clarke Engines, Strathclyde
17 September	Members/LA Seminar	SF&RS, Strathclyde
October		
14 October	Comms & Market Development/Marketing	TBA
21 October	Technical	Rapidrop, Peterborough
30 October	Skills & Development	Compco
November		
4 November	Executive	TBA
12 November	Council	Marriott Worsley Park
12 November	AGM	Marriott Worsley Park
12 November	Annual Dinner	Marriott Worsley Park
2016		
November		
16 November	AGM & Dinner	St David's Hotel, Cardiff
17 November	Fire Sprinkler 2016	St David's Hotel, Cardiff

BAFSA Challenge Day

Wednesday 3rd June

Marriott Forest of Arden



BAFSA members and their guests and families are invited to pit their imagination, skills and sporting prowess in an afternoon of enjoyable challenges followed by a "beer and barbecue".

We are looking for 50 competitors and loads of spectators to spur them on and enjoy the spectacle. Five teams of 10 will be created on the day and compete in 6 challenges:

- ✚ Archery
- ✚ Laser Clay Shooting
- ✚ Pistols
- ✚ Human Sheep Herding
- ✚ Storm the Castle
- ✚ Quiz time

Team spirit is the order of the day along with fun and frivolity. What better way to network with your BAFSA colleagues, friends and clients than through working as a team?

To enter the challenge day email marketing@bafsa.org.uk

We seek five team sponsors. £500 support secures:

- ✚ a team
- ✚ team T-shirts bearing your chosen name
- ✚ table top exhibition space
- ✚ a winning challenge trophy

Sponsors wanting to discuss how make the most of this exciting opportunity should call 01795 530111

We hope that even non participant members and their families will attend the prize-giving and barbecue in the evening.



THE BAFSA GOLF DAY

is back with more than just a great round of golf

The 2015 BAFSA golf event will be held in conjunction with the BAFSA Challenge and will take place at the exclusive Forest of Arden, Aylesford course. Bacon Sandwiches along with tea and coffee will be served at 8.00am, with an 8:45 first tee off.

A cost of £80.00 per player will include, 18 holes of golf, the morning breakfast, refreshment pack, players course book, course marker and lunch.

BUT WAIT THERE IS MORE...

Once finished, the golfers will be teamed together to spend the afternoon competing in the BAFSA Challenge, followed by the evening BBQ. This will all be included in the agreed price above.

Once we have confirmed teams, more information regarding the layout of the golf will be sent out.

Please email your interest in the golf to adam.moroney@victaulic.com

The entire day will be centred on the Marriott Forest of Arden Marquee

TIMINGS

0800 Golfers gather
0845 Tee off
1000 Sponsors set up
1200 Registration & coffee
1230 Bacon rolls
1300 Team building
1330 Challenge Day briefing
1400 Let the games begin
1730 Take a breather
1800 Barbecue
1830 Prize-giving



Happy 40th Anniversary BAFSA

To receive Sprinkler Focus by email please contact BAFSA at info@bafsa.org.uk and ask to be added to the subscriber list.

BAFSA is happy to receive suggestions for topics to be covered in future issues and welcomes contributions from all BAFSA members. Please make contact via marketing@bafsa.org.uk

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

bafsa

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