

Fire Safety

Strategic Fire Safety Requirements

About

Changes to both fire safety legislation and continuing advances in fire safety engineering inevitably mean that a much more strategic approach to fire safety management regimes is required by organisations wishing to demonstrate their ability to reduce, mitigate and manage fire safety risks.

This is particularly important in organisations where there may be a dispersed estate of property, multiple processes or an ever changing workforce. In addition to this the whole fire risk management approach now needs to take account not only those areas under our direct control, but the impact of our neighbours' activities, and the local environs around a particular workplace.

Fire Safety Management Review

A Strategic Fire Safety Management Review report on organisations is often one of the first steps in establishing the viability of a Lead Authority Partnerships (L.A.P.).

The Compilation of Management Review Reports requires a heightened awareness of Risk Management and Strategic planning concepts and an ability to accurately evaluate data relevant to the organisation under audit.

With the much heralded Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order now scheduled for implementation in October 2006, many organisations are considering the next steps in their approach to managing fire safety across dispersed business units and operations and UK wide property portfolios.

With further emphasis undoubtedly focusing on the fire risk assessment process and over arching management strategies, the application of a standard approach to enforcement across premises, properties and operations, where enforcement responsibility rests with various Fire Authorities could present a range of challenges. This issue was recognised many years ago and the HSE/LA Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELAL) originated the concept of L.A.P.s in 1991.

The aims of the scheme are to:

- > Promote consistency in the health and safety enforcement of organisations with multiple outlets within the Local Authority (LA) enforced sector;
- > Improve health and safety management systems within these organisations.

As well as being supported by the HSE, L.A.P.s is also fully supported by the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA) who have set up a dedicated Steering Committee to extend the scheme to cover the enforcement of fire safety legislation and provide central advice for brigades on the scheme. The 'Lead Fire Authority' acts as a focal point for liaison on fire safety issues between a company with outlets in a number of local authority areas, and the enforcing authorities in those areas.