

RULING

OUT

FIRE

Fire safety on
sub-surface
railway stations

Fire safety on sub-surface railway stations

Fire safety law is changing. This leaflet puts you in the picture about what will be different after 1 October 2009.

After the Kings Cross fire back in 1987, the Section 12 Regulations were put together to try to make sure the same thing doesn't happen again. Since then, Government has worked with your employers, trade unions and the fire and rescue service to bring the law up to date and make it relevant to how you work today.

Your managers have been sent detailed technical guidance to explain the changes. You don't need to worry about the technical and legal details, but you do need to know the key changes that affect your work.

If you're interested in the more detailed background, ask your manager or look on the website www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety



Image © Transport for London



Why have the rules been changed?

When the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ('FSO') was brought in, it meant major changes to the rules about fire safety in England and Wales.

All buildings except private homes have to comply with the FSO, and that includes transport premises. Your place of work already has to meet the FSO standards. But from October this year it will also have to follow the Fire Precautions (Sub-surface railway stations) (England) Regulations 2009.

The FSO is based on risk assessment – spotting possible dangers and doing something about them. Your employer will have carried out a risk assessment for your workplace. Under the FSO, as a member of staff the following are likely to affect you directly.

- All escape routes must be kept clear of obstructions e.g. rubbish, baggage, equipment etc and rubbish must be stored in an appropriate designated area until it is disposed of.
- All doors on escape routes must be kept unlocked (except those leading to unoccupied rooms).
- Staff on duty need to be able provide instruction to the general public and other people who are not station staff on what to do in case of fire.

The 2009 Regulations have been written especially for sub-surface railway stations, and you will have to follow these more specific regulations.

What do the 2009 Regulations mean for me?

The list below gives the key fire safety points you need to know about when working on sub-surface railway stations.

There are many more guidelines on how the building is constructed and how your manager should manage the building – if you'd like to know about these, you can find out more in the technical guide. But the following are more likely to affect you directly.

- Doors on escape routes which lead to unoccupied rooms not used by members of staff or open to the public must be kept locked.
- The fire and rescue service must be told immediately if a fire is suspected. Your training should tell you what the specific procedures are for your workplace.
- Each station must provide plans suitable for fire fighters to use. These should usually be kept in specially marked boxes on the outside of the station.
- Staff on duty must be given a means of communication.



Image courtesy of Merseyrail

- Material which could catch fire, including rubbish, mustn't be allowed to build up. Any area where it is temporarily stored must be separated from the rest of the building by fire-resisting construction.
- All staff working on the premises must be given appropriate training, including basic instruction, periodic further instruction and periodic fire drills. Records should be kept of fire drills.*
- Anyone doing building work or maintenance at the station, who is not a member of staff, should be supervised.
- At least two members of staff should be on duty when the station is open.*

* means that your employer can apply to the fire and rescue authority for an exemption.



Image courtesy of Nexus

Training

You can expect to receive training about the 2009 Regulations, as before, every seven months.

This leaflet is just an introduction to the changes. Don't rely on this leaflet alone to update you.



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Published by the Department for Communities
and Local Government.

© Crown copyright 2009
Printed in the UK May 2009 on paper comprising a
minimum of 75% post-consumer waste

Product code 978 1 4098 1407 8
Ref number 09 FRD 05904

ISBN 978-1-4098-1407-8



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