



# Federation Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Making sure your voice is heard

Number 24

## EVENTS

- Fire Safety Conference  
4 November 2020  
QEII London
- 27-29 April 2021  
Fire Safety Event  
NEC Birmingham
- INTERSCHUTZ  
14 to 19 June 2021  
Hannover.

## Directors

Michael Harper – Chair  
Andrew Lynch  
Dave Russell  
Dennis Davis  
Jon O'Neil  
Niall Rowan  
Tom Roche

## Links

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## Raising Standards

The start of autumn has seen a number of publications emerge. The long awaited recommendations on competency, driven by the construction and fire sectors responding to the Grenfell Tower fire, the international community seeking to express the lessons learnt in a set of principles, and the Federation updating its own guidance on helping responsible persons find a suitable fire risk assessor, were all released in the first week of October.



A significant report '[Setting the Bar](#)' outlines the detailed thinking assembled by the Competency Steering Group which has been determinedly working for two years addressing weaknesses identified by industry in how to manage building safety and create the circumstances for cultural change called for by Dame Judith Hackett.

The report with its multiple recommendations is certainly a long read, although having an [Executive Summary](#) helps, as it weaves through the professions involved. Regarded as a blueprint to improve competence for those working on higher-risk buildings the report paves the way for improvements in fire safety in all new buildings.



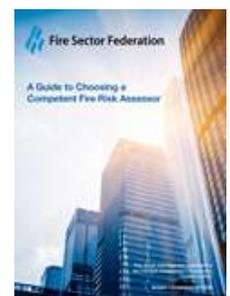
Federation members were heavily involved in several CSG working groups, with leading roles in the groups responsible for developing enhanced competence for fire engineers, installers and fire risk assessors working on higher risk buildings.



The second, a global report, is from a coalition of fire safety organisations and launches a new international approach to fire safety management in all buildings. Called the International Fire Safety Standard – Common Principles ([IFSS-CP](#)) this high level report summarises a broad set of principles aimed at building a consensus and consistent approach to fire safety.

The third [report](#) is a revision of earlier guidance. Updating advice on choosing a fire risk assessor, by referring to the need to take cladding into account, this important guide links in with the clarity now detailed in the revisions of the Fire Safety Order 2005

While all these publications were happening the Federation was also finalising its own [submission](#) to the Government consultation on Fire Safety.



In answering the many questions posed the Federation also took the opportunity to highlight ongoing concerns on issues limiting fire risk assessor capacity and the necessity to ensure, MHCLG proposals for Building Safety and those of Home Office for Fire Safety, were aligned.

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## John Morton FSF Communications Officer

The Board were pleased to announce at the September Forum the appointment of John Morton, an award-winning independent public relations consultant with over 25 years working experience for companies in the UK Fire sector, as our communications officer. In the near future John hopes to start the member survey we have previously talked about and launch a Federation LinkedIn page. John can be reached at: [john@morcom.co.uk](mailto:john@morcom.co.uk) or 07515352461

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## Update of Fire Safety Guidance

A reminder C.S.Todd & Associates are calling for ideas and issues to improve the Home Office FSO guides, particularly the 'Short Guide to Making your Premises Safe from Fire' and 'Fire Safety in Purpose-Built Blocks of Flats'. High-level comment is [requested](#) at this stage.

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## Grenfell Tower Inquiry

The Federation Executive Officer has been requested to provide a witness statement to the GTI which recommences the [Phase 2](#) hearings on the 9 October 2020.

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## Critical Fire Safety Product Assurance

Following the very successful online Forum meeting in September Chris Miles, the UL representative on the FSF, held an exploratory meeting on 9 October 2020. The meeting kick started a new group to consider the broad aspects of product certification and marking, both as an outcome of the governments post Brexit approach and more generally going forward. Views are especially welcome right now on any UKCA clarifications required before 1 January 2021 or on products seen as needing testing and marking. See FSF [website](#)

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## Fire Risk Assessor Competency

Work by the Federation led group looking at fire risk assessment is now at the stage where an Approved Code of Practice has been drafted and is close to publication. Associated with the ACOP will be a register of fire risk assessors on the FSF website, which it is hoped can form the basis of the first public national register. A Home Office task and finish group, with which the FSF also engaged, looking at providing advice on implementing the clarified Fire Safety Order, is also concluding its work. Details from the [office](#).

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