

CAN I DO MY OWN FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT?

The law does not say who is allowed to carry out a fire risk assessment. However, the person must be competent enough to complete a 'suitable and sufficient' assessment of that particular building. This may mean getting a professional fire risk assessor to carry out the assessment.

Before carrying out a fire risk assessment can you answer these following questions?

1. What is the current British standard for the installation of fire extinguishers?
2. How far away should an "assembly point" be?
3. What is the name of the current fire legislation in the UK?
4. What type of fire alarm system is required in your property? L1, L2, L3, L4 or L5?
5. What is the difference between a "Responsible person" and a "person with responsibilities"?
6. How often should a fire risk assessment be reviewed?
7. In a medium risk premises, what is the maximum travel distance permitted to an "area of relative safety"?
8. What is "an area of relative safety"?
9. Is your premises Low, Medium or High risk? And why?
10. Are all void spaces adequately compartmented?
11. Does the business have enough trained fire wardens?

Finally, the most important question of all...

12. Can YOUR fire risk assessment stand examination in a court of law if the worst happens?

YOU have taken on the responsibility of a fire risk assessment and it will be YOU in court defending YOURSELF with that document. Is it "suitable and sufficient"?