

The right side of fire safety

Breaking the law or not breaking the law. Finding out if your customers are taking the right approach to fire safety isn't complicated.



It's been nearly 3 years since new fire safety laws were introduced in October 2006 – The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

Sounds like a heavyweight piece of legislation, and when you look into everything it covers, it is. But for commercial customers it's fairly easy to explain: you must have done a fire risk assessment and acted on the findings.

Nine months after the Order was introduced, Aviva Risk Management Solutions carried out research among UK businesses. They found that over a third (36%) hadn't carried out a fire safety risk assessment and were therefore breaking the law.

More up-to-date figures suggest compliance rates are still poor and that the Fire and Rescue Service is increasingly keen to prosecute firms.

As many as 40% of premises inspected by the Fire and Rescue Service last year were found to be 'unsatisfactory'. While many were dealt with informally, well over 4,000 faced some kind of enforcement action.

One company was recently hit with a record fine of £300,000 plus £45,000 in costs for breaching the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

Have you done a fire risk assessment? If you haven't, you are breaking the law and, if you are, you need to do something about it. Not only could you face a hefty fine but, much worse than that, lives could be lost.

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