

ASFP Advisory Notice

Understanding The Term 'Competent Person' In Relation To The Installation Of Passive Fire Protection

The ASFP position is that a competent person is one who must demonstrate to a third party that they have the expertise, skill and commitment to the professional installation of passive fire protection products.

WHAT IS A 'COMPETENT PERSON'?

A 'Competent Person' is a person or business that has been judged to be sufficiently competent to self-certify that any work undertaken complies with the relevant parts of the Building Regulations of England and Wales.

A Competent Person must be registered with a scheme that has been approved by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Schemes approved by the DCLG are listed on its website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/competentpersonsschemes/existingcompetentperson/> The Department of Communities and Local Government has undertaken a consultation on the extension of the use of 'Competent Person' schemes for Building Control: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/competentschemechangesconsult>

Whilst currently there is no intention that the use of competent person schemes is to be extended into areas of Local Authority Building Control such as fire safety, the possibility exists that such schemes might be created at some future date.

THE ASFP POSITION

The ASFP strongly advocates the use of third party certification of contractors for the installation of passive fire protection products to the extent that it is mandatory for all ASFP contractor members to maintain third party certification via a certification body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). This certification requires the third party to verify that installations are satisfactory. This process is undertaken by a mixture of audits of records and randomly selected site visits by the third party, at which workmanship is checked for compliance.

THE 'ASFP COMPETENT PERSON'

The ASFP position is that a 'Competent Person' is one who must demonstrate to a third party that they have the expertise, skills and commitment to the professional installation of passive fire protection products. This means one who either:

-  works for a third party certificated installer under the conditions of that scheme
or
-  has demonstrated to a certification body running a UKAS accredited 'Competent Persons' scheme to EN ISO 17024:2003 (Personnel Certification) competence in the installation of passive fire protection
or
-  works for a company operating a company based 'Competent Person' scheme certificated against EN 45011 by a certification body accredited by UKAS

The ASFP will continue to work with the certification community to ensure that the installation of passive fire protection is undertaken by appropriately trained individuals within a third party framework.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the ASFP website at www.asfp.org.uk.