



FIA EWS1 Portal: Add your forms fee-free by October

FIA calls on EWS assessors to register to use the EWS1 portal and upload completed EWS1 forms fee-free before October 2021 deadline

In July UK Finance announced that seven mortgage lenders agreed to cover the cost of making EWS1 forms publicly available through the Fire Industry Association [FIA] [Building Safety Information Portal](#).

The seven lenders supporting the initiative are: Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, Nationwide, NatWest, Santander and TSB.

The FIA Portal was created to host completed EWS1 forms and make them publicly available. However, a significant number of fire professionals who undertake EWS assessments have not yet taken the opportunity to add completed documents to the portal.

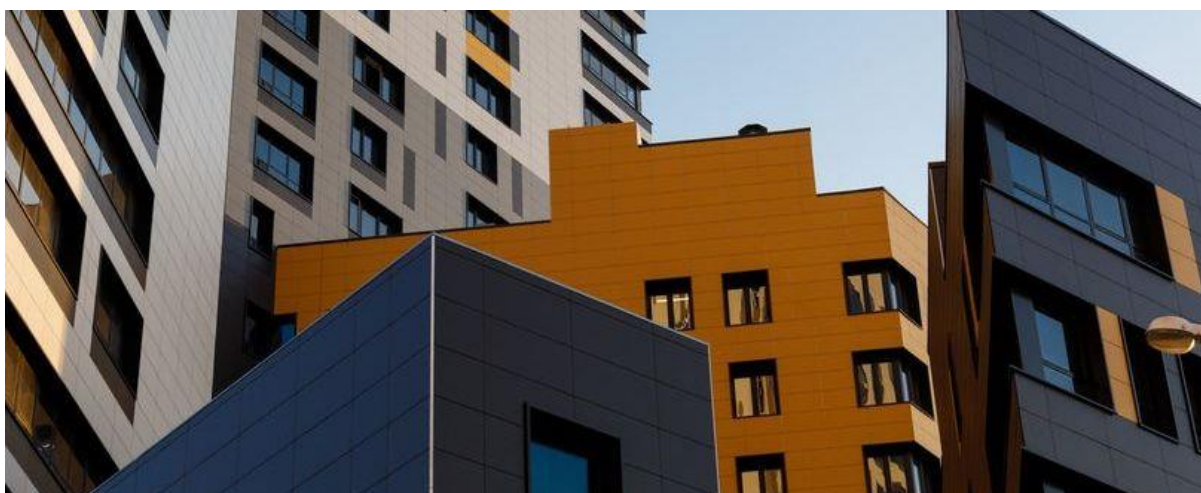
As well as covering the cost of uploading an estimated 6,000 existing forms, the seven lenders have also agreed to pay the fees for 250 fire professionals to register on the portal.

This collaboration between the lending industry, the FIA and UK Finance means that everyone including homeowners, prospective buyers, valuers and lenders can easily access a building's EWS1 form through a central portal, and this service remains free of charge.



Call for Action

We urge EWS assessors to take full advantage of the free registration and form submission period which ends on 11 October 2021.



Background of EWS1 forms

Among the many actions resulting from the Grenfell tragedy, EWS1 forms were developed by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors [RICS], UK Finance and the Building Societies Association to enable competent fire experts to record whether buildings are fire-safe in respect of their external cladding and if not, whether remedial work that could affect the property's value will have to be carried out. The provision of these forms to support mortgage valuations has successfully created clear and consistent documentation in this respect and supports the buying, selling and remortgaging of flats in buildings affected by cladding.

In order to create a fully reliable and accessible process for the upload and retrieval of EWS forms, the FIA developed a unique portal that since November 2020 provides a central readily-accessible location for EWS1 forms and for the first time, the ability for suitably qualified experts to complete the forms on-line.

What do I have to do to register to use the portal?

Signatories to EWS1 forms must first register to submit or complete forms online, and must provide evidence of applicable professional memberships and qualifications prior to the application being approved.

Who can access the Portal?

Buyers, sellers, lenders, insurers and other stakeholders that have an interest in particular properties can search by postcode or building name. After doing this the form, if it is on the Portal, will appear with its full postal address. The form can be viewed and downloaded on entering a valid e-mail address, which enables us to contact the enquirer if a form is withdrawn or superseded.

Where can I find more information?

The portal website is the Building Safety Information Portal [BSIP] at <http://www.buildingsafetyportal.co.uk>. This name reflects its future potential as a repository for a wide range of building safety documentation.

Any enquiries regarding the Portal should be addressed to Portal@fia.uk.com

Who ensures the accuracy of the data on the Portal?

The importance of tackling fraud relating to EWS1 forms has been recognised, and a rigorous approach has been applied to the Portal to include manual checks at key stages of the process.

Each assessor wishing to submit forms must present evidence that they are fully qualified and competent to do so. This is checked prior to enabling their forms to be submitted to the Portal. In addition, all existing forms and on-line submissions are subject to further checks to determine their validity before they appear as publicly available documents.

Any enquiries regarding the Portal should be addressed to Portal@fia.uk.com

The FIA is a not-for-profit membership organisation that is the largest fire trade association not only in the UK but across Europe. Find out more at www.fia.uk.com.

