



Fire Industry Association



FIA Annual Report 2019

In a world post the Hackitt Report

The “Building a Safer Future” Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety has dominated this year’s industry activities. This Hackitt report has laid out the steps to improving safety in the wake of Grenfell and now action needs to be taken in this small window of opportunity. Following our successful contribution to the report, we have been heavily involved with the working groups on competency which, being mentioned 152 times in the report, is clearly an issue that most of us have known about for many years.



Ian Moore,
Chief Executive Officer of the FIA

The next stage is to tackle competency failings identified in the Hackitt Review by looking at a radical and wide-ranging set of measures to improve the competence of those who design, construct, inspect, maintain and operate higher risk residential buildings (HRRBs) and make them safer for the public.

With our insistence on third-party certification for companies (as part of our membership criteria) and offering qualifications for individuals, we are in a strong position to support the measures set out by a cross-industries group backed by Government, the Industry Safety Steering Group and Dame Judith Hackitt.

One of our biggest challenges this year has been the step up to nationally recognised qualifications. The examinations are clearly more difficult to pass and we have worked endlessly to find ways of increasing our learning support materials, improve training techniques and educating the students that a big commitment of their time and effort is required. The low pass rate has led us to reassess the levels of the exams and work on introducing new courses and examinations to suit a high percentage of our industry workforce.

We have also made some internal changes as a business to counter the reduction in income, one of them being the loss of Martin Duggan, who had been our General Manager. Martin had served over 18 years with the Fire Industry Association (and its forerunners) and we are extremely grateful for Martin's contributions to the company over many years, taking over as General Manager as the merger of FETA and BFPSA formed the FIA and with the subsequent integration of FIRESA; and the Board and staff thank Martin for his loyal service and wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Finally, a few words of thanks for the FIA staff and Board; our technical and training teams continue to be outstanding in a number of areas, our marketing team consistently delivers strong messages; our unheralded back-room staff (such as finance, compliance, AO, logistical support) and our Board of Directors (who I sincerely thank for giving up their time for no financial reward) are more committed than ever by stepping up their involvement in a number of areas to the challenges the FIA is facing. This gives a stronger base of expertise for me as the CEO to draw on.

Membership



Membership

Membership has continued at an impressive rate of growth in the 2018/19 period and is forecasted to reach 900 members by the end of this membership year. Competency and the desire to be able to prove it remains the biggest driver and the FIA is perfectly placed to address this critical issue. Being part of the largest trade body in the industry, largest fire trade association in Europe, with the influence that brings, in combination with the FIA AO Level 3 Qualifications, makes membership as attractive a prospect for companies working in the sector as it ever has been. Whether companies are well established and want to maintain their standing within the industry, or are just starting out and want to prove competency to their peers and customers, FIA membership has something for everyone.



Total members

871

Increase

7.5%

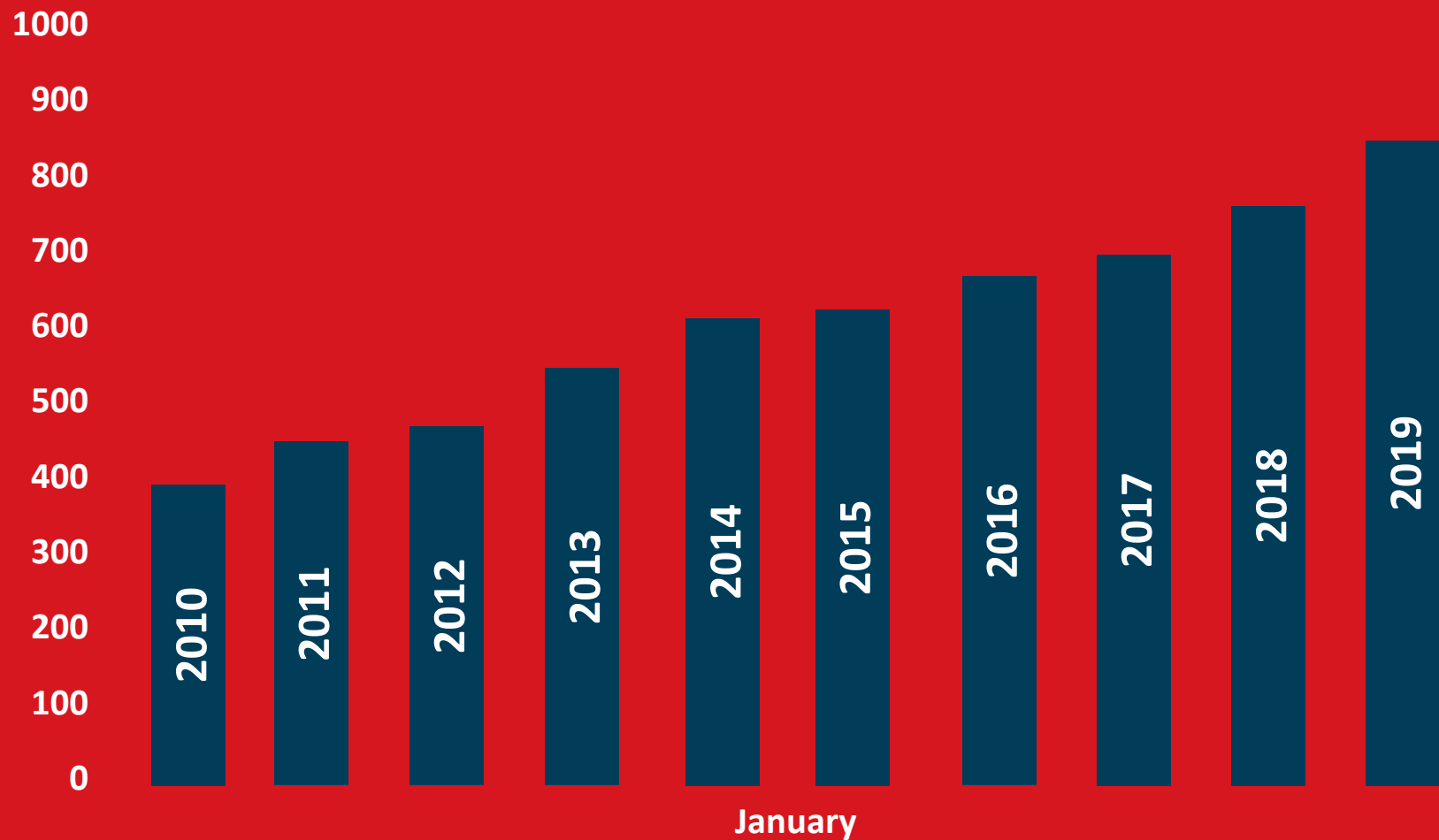
Record Breaking
month
Feb 2019

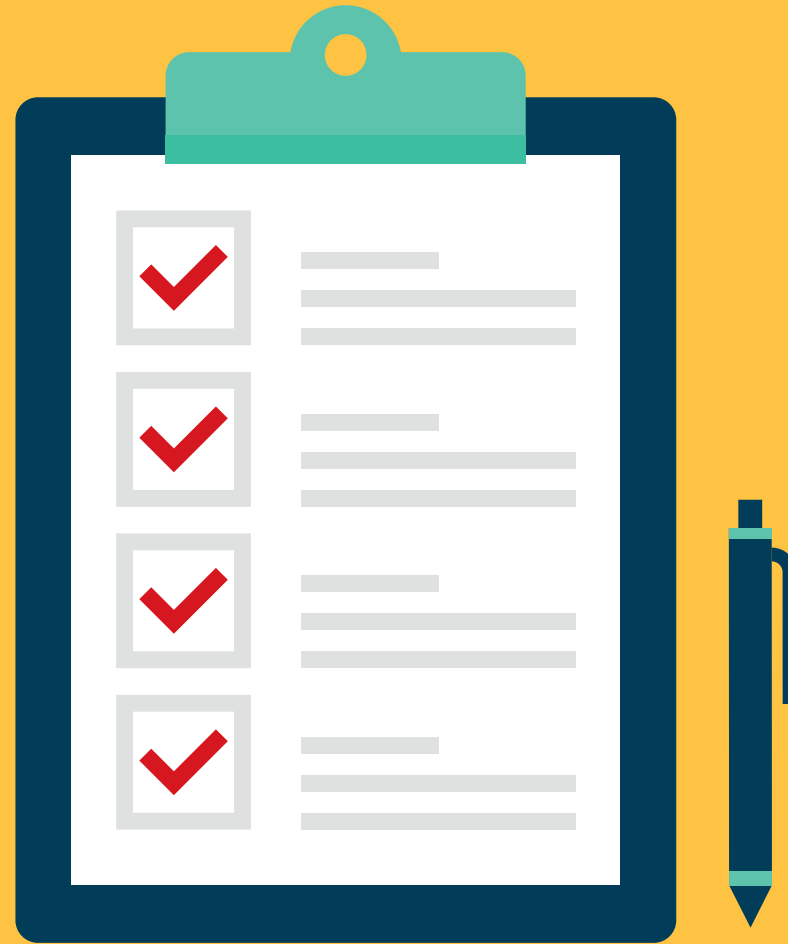


Record breaking
1st Quarter



Total Members





Compliance

Compliance

Since the last AGM update, the following figures are of note:

Currently there are 39 probationary members as part of the overall membership as of 10 September 2019. We continue to work with BSI, NSI & SSAIB (and Certsure on occasions) on achieving the various certifications, of which all to date have been BAFE certified.

39 companies have achieved 3rd party certification since the last report, 12 of which were under our Route to Certification (RTC) scheme.

Currently there are 25 companies on the RTC scheme set to achieve certification over the next 6 to 12 months.



FIA Awarding Organisation Annual Report

FIA Awarding Organisation (AO)

In another very busy year for the FIA AO, we would have expected the pressure to ease with the new qualifications now released. However, in our continuing work to ensure relevance and currency of the qualification specification, we have carried out industry consultation and specification (syllabus) reviews.

In response to these reviews each of the question banks have been reviewed and revised and questions have been considered based on their individual performance and relevance to the changed specification, leading to the release of revised set of exam papers for each. This is an ongoing process ensuring that through our qualifications we continue to ensure learners are fully prepared for their positions in the workplace. As a result, we have:



6 Units
with formal
exams running

303
individual subject areas
covered across the 6 exams

967
questions in
the bank
(includes questions
withdrawn and/or
awaiting authorisation)

814 questions authorised
for use (live questions in use)

2347
different versions
of the questions
(includes questions that have
been superseded through
review and revision)

The following results are all based on exams taken since October 2018

- **2232 Exams taken, of which;**
 - o 1957 (Full Course) Exams
 - o 375 (Resit) Exams taken
- **Fastest completion**
 - o 1hr, level 2 exam (Foundation or Environmental) – 19 minutes
 - o 2hr, level 3 exam (Install, Commission or Maintenance) – 52 minutes
 - o 3hr, level 3 exam (Design) – 138 minutes
- **Average completion**
 - o 1hr, level 2 exam (Foundation or Environment) – 48 minutes
 - o 2hr, level 3 exam (Install, Commission or Maintenance) – 109 minutes
 - o 3hr, level 3 exam (Design) – 176 minutes
- **Fastest pass**
 - o 1hr, Level 2 exam, Foundation – 19 minutes
 - o 2 hr, Level 3 exam, Installer – 52 minutes
 - o 3hr, Level 3 exam, Design – 138 minutes
- **Unit performance**
 - o Foundation
 - 73% of learners passing first time
 - Average score of 68% across all learners (average pass)
 - Top performing subject area; G – Systems Technology, 77.58% correct answers
 - Bottom performing subject area; A – Legislation, 56.33% correct
 - o Environmental
 - 99% of learners passing first time
 - Average score of 59% across the board (average pass)

- Top performing subject area;
F-Gas, 76.71% correct
- Bottom performing subject area;
IRR, 17 34.31% correct
- o Advanced Units (at time of going to print, being the newer released modules, there is not enough data to give meaningful run-rates on performance)
- Designer
 - Top performing subject area; G – BS 9999/BS 9991
 - Bottom performing subject area; N – Maintenance Methodology
- Installer
 - Top performing subject area; A – BS 5839/IS 3218
 - Bottom performing subject area; D – Installation Methodology
- Commissioning
 - Top performing subject area; F – False Alarm Management

- Bottom performing subject area;
G – Instruction Techniques
- Maintainer
 - Top performing subject area;
Premises Management
 - Bottom performing subject area;
Maintenance Methodology



Training



Training

2019 has continued to be a challenging year for the FIA Training department as we roll out all the Fire Detection & Alarm Qualification courses.

Foundation, Health & Safety and Environmental courses are reasonably well established and running smoothly and the newer advanced units on Maintenance, Design, Commissioning and Installation are now available. In addition, we are now offering a new “Access to Foundation” course aimed at new entrants to the industry, or those who wish to top up their knowledge prior to enrolling in the Qualification route.

Our previous industry surveys showed the appetite for formal qualifications to level 3 to raise the bar on professionalism and in fact

this has been vindicated in the Hackitt report. Level 3 is not easy to achieve (nor should it be) and the unpreparedness of the students coming into the process has been the biggest learning curve for us as we find ways to ensure they are given every opportunity to pass the examinations upon completion of the courses.

Results are now improving since the launch of the qualifications due to a number of factors such as pre-learning collateral (such as videos, practice exam questions, detailed syllabus etc) and more importantly the realisation by companies and delegates that these courses require more study time than the previous FD&A courses delivered by the FIA.

Training outside of the Qualifications route continues with plans to expand and improve a number of the courses over the next two years.



Sept 2018 to Aug 2019

302

Total number
of FIA courses

3825

Total number
of delegates



FIA's Councils

Extinguishing Council

WG Gases

Published papers since last AGM

Guidance on Room Integrity Testing

In progress

- Block plans for gaseous systems
- Fact File – UNECE Regulation 107
- Guidance Note for an Introduction to Vehicle Fire Suppression
- Guideline to determine agent quantities for extended discharges of Inert and Halocarbon extinguishing agents
- Guidance on Time Delays for gaseous extinguishing systems
- Guidance on application codes for class B fuels for foam extinguishing systems



Research projects

Research project on high airflows and gaseous extinguishing systems

Training and certification schemes

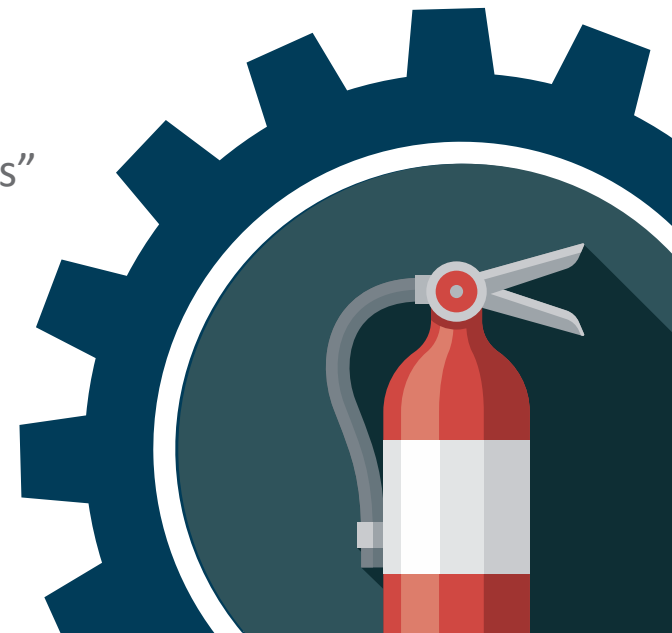
Training and Certification scheme for gaseous extinguishing systems installation technicians AO – in progress

Codes and Standards Success/Activity

FIA Vent Guidance Document accepted as the base document for published EN ISO standard (ISO TS 21805)

Active influence and support of revisions to the following documents:

- ISO 14520 “Gaseous extinguishing systems” (World)
- ISO 6183 “CO₂ extinguishing systems” (World)
- EN 15004 “Gaseous extinguishing systems” (Europe)
- EN 12094 series “Gaseous extinguishing system products”



Watermist

Published papers since last AGM

Block plans for watermist systems

Seminars

In progress

Applications

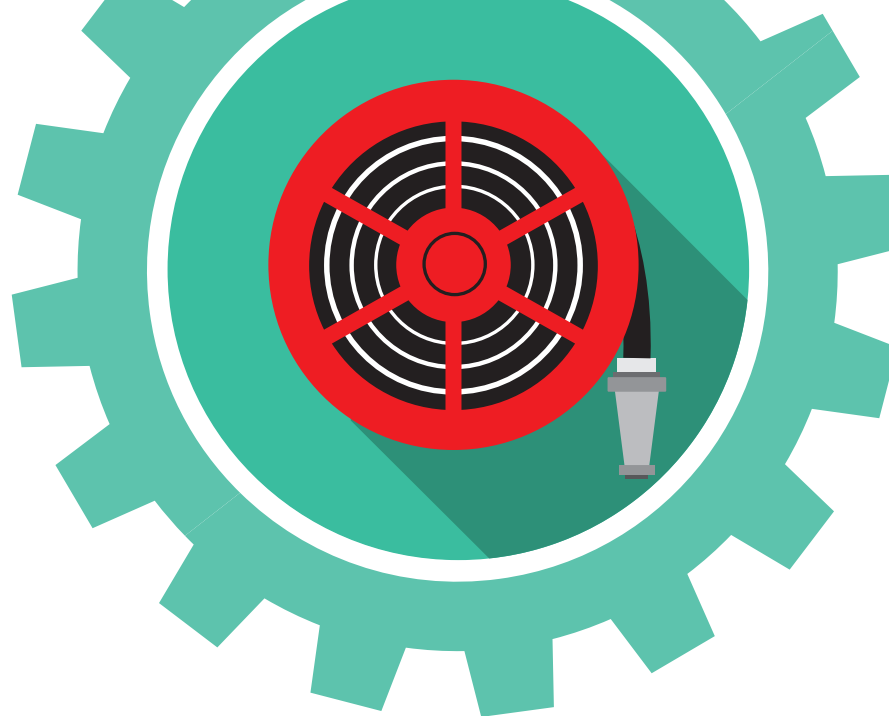
Under consideration

Training and Certification scheme for Installation and Service technicians AO

Codes and Standards Success/Activity

Active involvement in the following:

- Revision CEN TS/EN 14972 Watermist systems – Design and installation
- Development of CEN Watermist component standards
- BS 8489 “Commercial Watermist systems” series
- BS 8458 “Domestic and residential Watermist systems”
- BS panel on personal protection equipment
- BS panel on components for Watermist systems



WG Foam

Published papers since last AGM

Fact File 3 Foam and the environment

Block plans for foam systems

FIA Research projects

Use of class A foams in Biomass/Waste plant fire protection Phase 2 complete

Use of class A foams in Biomass/Waste plant fire protection Phase 2b in discussion

In progress

Guidance on application codes for class B fuels for foam extinguishing systems

Codes and Standards Success/Activity

Active involvement in the following revisions:

- EN 1568 series “Foam /Media” (Europe)
- EN 13565 series “Foam Systems” (Europe)
- ISO 7203 series “Foam Systems” (World)

Liaison with Eurofeu/Euralarm on European legislation related to foams and foam precursors.



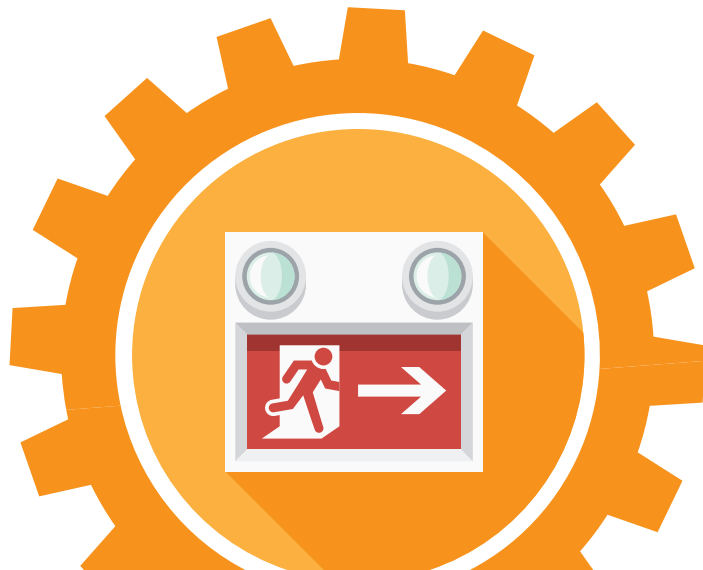
EMTC (Extinguisher Manufacturers Technical Committee)

Codes and Standards Success/Activity

Input into the following:

- EN 3 “Portable Fire Extinguishers” revisions
- BS 6165 “Small Disposable Extinguishers”
- BS 7863 “Colour Coding for Fire Extinguishers” revision

SIG on Li-ion Battery fires - drafting guidance on fire protection of batteries and devices containing them



Services Council

PSC (Portable Servicing Committee)

Training Courses in progress

Hydrant/Riser testing

Published papers since last AGM

BS 5306-3 “Maintenance of fire extinguishers” guide

FIA Position on BS 5306-9 “Refilling of fire extinguishers”

Papers In progress

Extinguisher use survey



Codes and Standards Success/Activity

Active involvement in the following:

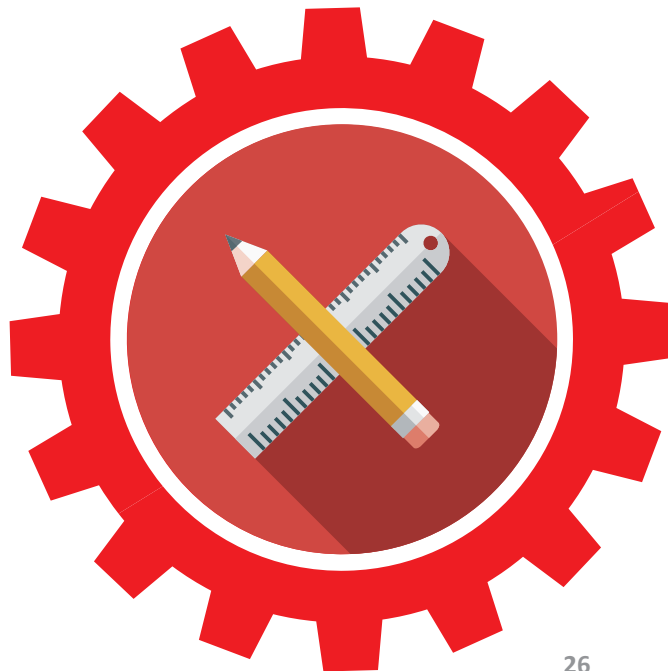
- Revision to BS 5306-8 “Selection and installation of extinguishers”
- Revision to BS 5306-10 “Colour coding to indicate the extinguishing media contained in portable fire extinguishers. Code of Practice”

CEN maintenance standard

- Development of BS 7273-6 “Code of Practice for the operation of fire protection measures. Fire detection and fire alarm systems.”

Interface with ancillary systems and equipment

- Development of the European standard on Remote servicing of fire and security systems



I&MS (Installers & Maintainers Section)

Published papers since last AGM

FIA Guidance on Manual Call Point update to cover Call points

Red vs Green

FIA ARC connection sign and associated FAQ

In progress

Review of BS 7273-4 (FD&A interaction with door hold/close devices) Guide

Testing of domestic/residential fire detectors guide

Under consideration

Research project on 520Hz issue for alarm devices

Codes and Standards Success/Activity

Active involvement in the revision of BS 5839-6 “Domestic and residential fire alarm systems”

Fire Engineering Council

The Building (Amendment) Regulations which came into force in December 2018 introduced new restrictions on the combustibility of materials contained within external walls of “relevant buildings”. The Fire Engineering Council has been working on providing clarity on these issues with the first document already published. The council is working with organisations across the industry to produce more guidance to help clarify the issues around the new regulations.



Fire Risk Assessment Council

Fire Risk Assessment Council has busted:

Myth 26: Normal passenger lifts cannot, under any circumstances, be used for evacuation of disabled people

Myth 27: Acoustically-actuated door release units cannot be used in premises in which people sleep

A new working group was established with the aim of producing videos to upskill/train fire risk assessors.

Additionally, a research project has been initiated basing on the following: Domestic fire deaths have been steadily progressing.



Fire Detection Alarm Council

FDWG02 – Fire Alarm Communications

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- Guidance on IP connectivity & remote services
- Connections to an ARC including multipath signalling and EN 54-21 review
- Guidance on issues for next generation networks
- Connecting FD&A to an ARC via a security alarm
- Guidance on PD 6669:2017
- Guidance on PSTN phase out



FDWG03 – Fire Detectors

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- FactFile on ISO/TS 7240-29 Video fire detection
- Video fire detection Code of Practice
- Guidance on sensitivity in computer rooms

Funded research projects:

- Standard test and assessment methods for Video Fire Detection
- Smoke detection where stratification is expected
- Performance of ageing smoke detectors

New funded research projects proposed:

- Further multi-sensor detection performance
- Performance of older heat detectors
- Detector positioning vs response times



FDWG05 – Control and indicating equipment

Codes and standards activity:

- A Special Interest Group was convened to discuss and issue comments to BSI regarding the new BS 8629 Code of Practice for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of evacuation systems for use by fire and rescue services in buildings containing flats or maisonettes

Published documents:

- Repeater panel guidance document

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- Review of EN 54-2 & 4

FDWG24 – Wireless systems

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- Guidance on the new SRD frequencies allocated by ETSI
- Review of differences between wireless fire & security alarms
- Review of EN 54-25



FDWG27 – Alarm Devices

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- FDTG door control
- Revision of Visual Alarm Device (VAD) Code of Practice
- Guidance on the installation of tactile vibrating devices
- Guidance on the effectiveness of sounder frequencies

Funded research projects:

- EN 54-23 VAD effectiveness

FDWG SAD (Smoke Alarm Devices)

Codes and standards activity:

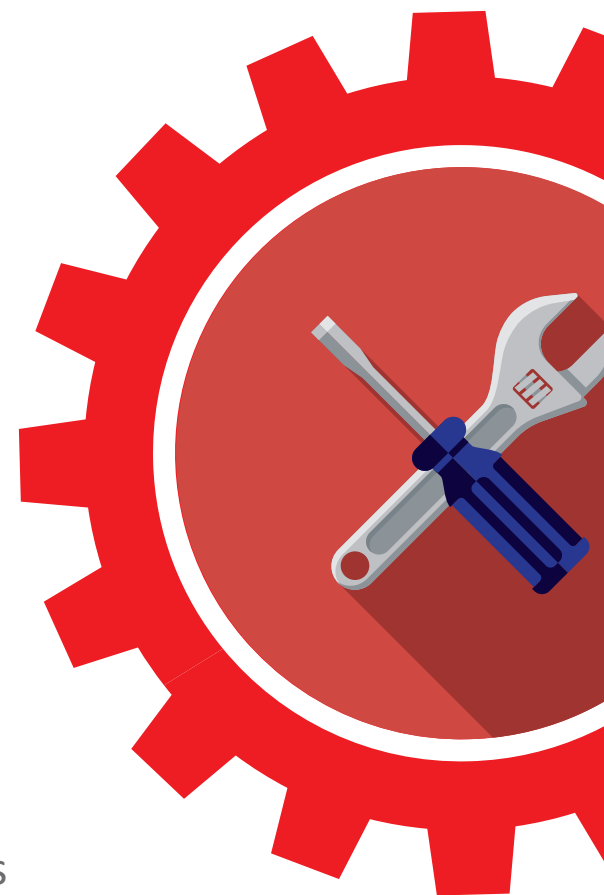
- Revision of BS 5839-6 has been published

Ongoing work on the following topics:

- Guidance on the revision of EN 14604 Smoke Alarm Devices

Published Documents:

- IoT (Internet of Things) Fact File

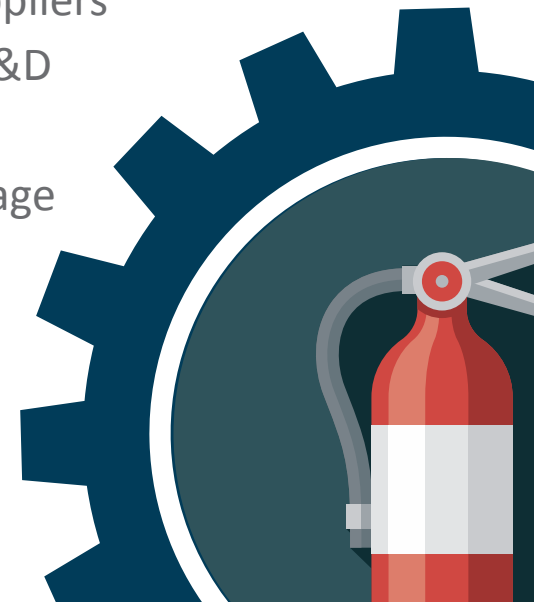


FIRESA Council

FIRESA Council's representation of the Fire and Rescue supply sector remains vitally important as we engage proactively in the evolution of our Fire and Rescue Services. Our working relationships with national and local government, the National Fire Chiefs Council and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services amongst many other organisations is yielding significant progress in creating more efficient processes in procurement and R&D to the benefit of both the Services and its suppliers.

Key Achievements in 2018-19

- Over 50 informative Bulletins issued to our Fire and Rescue suppliers
- Shaping the future of UK FRS Collaborative Procurement and R&D
- Extending our outreach to non-public sector Fire and Rescue
- Promotional activity including articles and regular Fire Times page



Council Meeting Venues

- Hampshire FRS
- Hove Community Fire Station
- West Midlands FRS
- Surrey FRS



Participation Across the Sector

- NFCC's Improvement and Innovation Conference and UK Fire and Rescue Landscape event
- Emergency Services Show and NAPFM exhibitions
- LGA Fire Conference pre-event dinner
- Sponsorship of Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards



Sector Liaisons and Partnerships

- NFCC and its Customer and Supplier Engagement Group
- HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services
- Exhibition organisers and publishing companies
- LGA Fire Committee
- Fire Service College
- Home Office and DIT

Export Council

Acting on behalf of over 60 exporting members, the FIA Export Council promotes UK fire safety products and services globally and provide information on a range of issues including export advice and news, government support, overseas market intelligence, relevant exhibitions and third-party publications and events. Following the overseas missions last year, our recent focus has been on building synergies with DIT DSO and other key partners and on identifying and researching target export markets.

Target Regions for 2019-20 Include



Key Achievements in 2018-19

- Follow up on overseas missions to Brazil and South Africa
- Contributions to DIT DSO Export Strategy
- New and expanded versions of Export Directory and Overseas Case Studies brochure
- Research on global export drivers and key markets
- Practical guidance on Brexit using UK government and other sources
- Further growth in number of 'FIA Exporters'
- Partnerships with DIT DSO, BSIA and numerous exhibition organisers

UK Fire Exports in Figures

- Active fire protection exports estimated at ca. £350 m pa
- Fire and Rescue exports at estimated £150 m pa
- 80% of FIA Exporters are OEMs
- Over half of FIA Exporters sell at least a third of their products overseas
- Many make the majority of their sales overseas
- Most FIA Exporters sell into Western Europe and the Middle East although UK products are found all over the world

Marketing



Marketing

During 2019 the FIA Marketing department concentrated on promotion of the Awarding Organisation (AO) qualifications. In particular, the focus of the marketing campaigns was on newly launched advanced modules, pre-learning collateral and exam preparation. In addition we have implemented an internal programme of efficiency improvements; readdressing all outgoing costs and methods of delivery to ensure we are maximising our output under budget constraints while still providing the same level of marketing service and promotional visibility for our members and the public.

Events

We continue to organise our successful biannual FIM Expo trade shows with an Autumn 2018 event at Doncaster Racecourse and the Spring 2019 event in Reading, Madejski Stadium. On average we had 80 visitors to each event. The FIA sponsored FIREX event gathered together 1400 industry visitors at the FIA Networking area during the UK's definitive fire prevention and protection event. 350 industry members participated in our popular FIA AGM event, taking advantage of the unique opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals in order to review our collective achievements from the last year and look at what's ahead.

FIA Website

It may seem that in 2019 we have not been significantly focusing on the website yet it would be far from the truth. Over the last year a lot of unseen work took place in modernising the website and it went through several upgrades; in addition to this we modernised our CRM system, cleansing the database to make it more efficient while ensuring we are GDPR compliant. We have also added many advanced and pre-qualification courses web pages.

Market Research

At the end of last year and in October this year, following thorough industry surveys and data analysis, we released our annual Fire Industry Market Condition Reports that keeps members informed of the latest industry trends. These findings were delivered by webinars by our CEO and the high attendance figures clearly show the appetite for information on this subject.

In April, we held our unique one topic survey which looked at the crisis of fire industry recruitment. Polling qualified fire safety specialists and technicians followed by an in-depth report, the conclusions were captured by the FIA Marketing Chairman in an article published on the FIA website.

e-Communication

We continue to be recognised as the information news source on the subject of fire safety, conveyed to our member community via the Focus newsletter; and as our subscriber's experience and views are paramount, we have decided to move to fortnightly issues of the Newsletter offering quality rather than quantity. In addition, our fortnightly Training e-mail Newsletter to members giving information about the FIA training and qualification courses on offer is growing in subscription.

Public Relations

Our CEO has had a busy year ensuring the FIA (representing our members' thoughts) has high visibility in as many areas as possible. Liaison work has been undertaken with Home Office, MHCLG, All Party Parliamentary Groups, BSI, DIT, Competency Steering Groups etc etc. mostly associated with the work for change following the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy. With BREXIT thrown in for good measure, there has never been such a important time to ensure our voices are heard in this brief window of opportunity and the marketing department has fully supported these messages.

Social Media

We have observed a continuous growth of the overall number of followers on FIA social media throughout the year. However, we have also observed a shift within social media with users using Twitter less often and moving to Facebook and LinkedIn. We also continue to observe gradual increases in overall media viewing time and YouTube subscribers.



Less due to observed overall shift in social medias. Twitter loses followers and that is not FIA specific



Average news articles read per month



The FIA team



Ian Moore
CEO

AO TEAM



Ian Gurling
Awarding
Organisation
Manager



Sarah Capon
Qualifications
Coordinator



Roger Agate
AO Question
Writer

EXPORT



Dr Dave Smith
Export
Manager

TRAINING TEAM



Michael Gregg
Training
Manager

MEMBERSHIP AND COMPLIANCE



Chris Tilley
Membership
Manager



Kevin Stearns
Compliance
Manager

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE



Will Lloyd
Technical
Manager



Robert Thilthorpe
Technical
Manager



Neil Budd
Technical
Manager

MARKETING



Renata Kopka
Marketing
Manager



Mark Stubbs
Trainer



Steve Simper
Trainer



Melena Blake
Training
Coordinator



Surriya Capon
General Admin
Assistant



Nina Sandhu
Training
Coordinator



Vacancy
Content
Executive



Kat Schabowska
Marketing
Communications
Executive



Fire Industry Association

www.fia.uk.com