

The UK Fire Industry



The UK Fire Protection Industry is recognised across the globe for its quality products and engineering expertise. The FIA Export Council acts as a central portal for identifying British-based companies that can meet your fire protection and fire-fighting needs.

The FIA Export Council comprises a range of organisations within the UK fire protection and fire safety industries. Some are smaller companies looking to expand their export interests while many are world-leading companies that have considerable export experience.

A Proud History of Fire Safety in the UK

The UK has an unrivaled history of fire safety which can be traced back a thousand years to the time of William the Conqueror who required all fires in houses to be extinguished each night.

The first building control laws in England date back to the London Building Act which followed the Great Fire of London in 1666. The Industrial Revolution saw many towns and cities introduce their own fire controls while some national consistency emerged in 1875 with the Public Health Act. Forwarding to 1966, mandatory National Building Regulations were introduced to be followed by the Building Act of 1984 and the Building Regulations 1985.

In 2006, the Regulatory Reform [Fire Safety] Order was enacted in England and Wales [with Scotland and Northern Ireland having similar legislation] that requires a 'responsible person' or equivalent to carry out a fire risk assessment for premises and carry out the necessary remedial action.

What Is The UK Fire Protection Industry?

The modern industry comprises three sub-sectors:

Active Fire Protection

Fire Detection and Alarm Systems; Fixed Fire Extinguishing; Portable Fire Extinguishers; Water Sprinklers and Water Mist; and Emergency Lighting.

Passive Fire Protection

Structural Fire Protection; Fire Stopping, Penetration Seals and Cavities; Fire-Resisting Partitions, Suspended Ceilings, Luminaires, Composite Panels; Fire Doors; and Flame-Retardant Coatings.

Fire Fighting

Fire Appliances; Pumps and Hoses; Protective Clothing; Uniforms; Breathing Apparatus; Rescue Tools; and anything else that is on a Fire Appliance or that a Fire Fighter uses.

The total UK market for Active and Passive Fire Protection and Fire-Fighting is in excess of £3bn pa. It is estimated that UK companies in these sectors already export around £600m pa to countries all over the world.



What Are Our Strengths?

- Rightful recognition as world leaders in fire safety
- Historical pedigree combined with modernistic approaches
- Companies committed to best practice in fire safety and business integrity and ethics
- Quality and innovation of British fire protection technology
- Adherence to recognised standards, approvals and certifications
- Offering the full range of fire safety solutions including specialist Products and systems
- Cultural awareness of UK companies acting overseas



Why Is Fire Protection Important?

There are around 400 fire deaths in the UK annually; in the USA, the figure in 2010 was 6,640. In financial terms, UK fire losses were recorded as £1.3 bn in 2008 or £3.6 m per day. Figures suggest that of businesses suffering a major fire incident, over 80% fold within 12-18 months.

There can be no doubt that effective fire protection and fire-fighting saves lives and reduces both the immediate and consequential losses attributable to fire incidents.



THE FIA Export Council

The FIA Export Council provides vital support and opportunities for British-based organisations to enhance the export performance of the British Fire Protection Industry and the importance of British Standards by:

- Promoting British fire protection and fire safety excellence internationally
- Encouraging and assisting in export matters including introducing companies to new markets
- Acting as an export focal point for the UK fire industry and providing a conduit between industry, government and overseas markets
- Maximising the effectiveness of UK trade support and export services
- Developing sales opportunities in respect of overseas trade missions, inward delegations and international exhibitions
- Providing an international forum for networking both nationally and internationally to generate new sales contacts
- Providing sector-specific overseas market information



Tracy Kirk, Chair

If you'd like to know more.....

Visit the FIA web site at www.fia.uk.com

Go to the FIA Export web pages at www.fia.uk.com/en/export/index.cfm

Find an up-to-date list of all our members at

www.fia.uk.com/en/export/export-council-members.cfm

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