

MEETING	526 Social Housing Fire Safety Group
DATE	Thursday 10 th December 2015
VENUE	Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells

	Organisation	Name	Jobtitle
1.	Aelwyd HA	Bill Meiklejohn	Scheme Liaison Officer
2.	BB7	Simon Ince	Head of Business Resilience
3.	Bro Myrddin HA Ltd	Gary Humphreys	Assistant Surveyor
4.	Bron Afon Community Housing	Chris Weeks	Fire and Electric Manager
5.	Bron Afon Community Housing	Lisa Rogers	Health and Safety Manager
6.	Bron Afon Community Housing	Tim Gilbert	Head of Planned Services
7.	Cardiff County Council	Kerry Powell	Compliance Officer
8.	Cardiff Metropolitan University	John Littlewood	Senior Lecturer
9.	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Alan Thomas	Facilities Officer
10.	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Bryan Griffiths	Supported Housing and Financial Inclusion Manager
11.	Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Mike Roberts	Senior HSQE Co-ordinator
12.	City & County of Swansea	Darren Whetton	Risk Management Surveyor
13.	Community Housing Cymru	Shea Jones	Energy and Sustainability Officer
14.	CT Cantref	Paul Watson	Property Services Administrator
15.	Derwen Cymru	Rob Lucas	Property Investment Manager
16.	EEESafe	Robert Alexander	Chief Executive
17.	Family HA (Wales) Ltd	Darrin Davies	Head of Property Services
18.	First Choice HA	Philip Green	Technical Officer
19.	Grwp Cynefin	Dewi Maelor Evans	Health and Safety Coordinator

20.	Hendre Group Ltd	Kevin Bateman	Health & Safety Co-ordinator
21.	Hendre Group Ltd	Leon Clifford	Health and Safety Manager
22.	Linc-Cymru Housing Association	Adrian Brain	Health and Safety Manager
23.	Local Authority Building Control	Lorna Stimpson	
24.	Merthyr Tydfil HA	Wyn Williams-Clement	Technical Services Manager
25.	MHRA	Emma Rooke (via telephone)	
26.	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Richard Davies	Station Manager (Swansea Command)
27.	Mid Wales HA Ltd	Jonathon Breeze	Contracts Officer
28.	Mid Wales HA Ltd	Nick Dearden	New Business Team Leader
29.	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Paul Jenkinson	
30.	Pembrokeshire Housing	David Evans	Stock Asset Management Officer
31.	Pennaf Housing Group Ltd	Keith Morris	Fire Safety Coordinator
32.	RCT Homes	Andrew Davies	Health and Safety Compliance Officer
33.	Seren Group Ltd	Emma Pearson	Health & Safety Manager
34.	Taff HA Ltd	Andy Petersen	Fire Safety Advisor
35.	Tai Calon Community Housing	Chris Smith	Technical Officer
36.	Tai Calon Community Housing	Richard Sims	Property Team Manager
37.	Tai Calon Community Housing	Robert Jones	Property Services Manager
38.	Tai Ceredigion Cyf	John Jones	Fire, Health & Safety Advisor
39.	Tai Ceredigion Cyf	Wayne Williams	Technical Coordinator
40.	United Welsh	Adrian Bright	Commercial and Planned Manager
41.	United Welsh	Peter Seaborne	Senior Development Manager
42.	Valleys to Coast Housing Ltd	Sue Jones	Health & Safety Business Partner
43.	Wales & West Housing	Jen Barton	Commercial Manager

44.	Wales & West Housing	Sean Gough	Contract Manager
45.	Wales & West Housing	Vaughan Williams	Health and Safety Officer
46.	Welsh Government - Merthyr	Colin Blick	

Matters arising/action from the last meeting

Diana showed a DVD on hoarding but CHC are not allowed to show it at the moment as the London FRS developed it and made it clear that they hold the copyright.

Action: CHC to ask London FRS for a copy. Please email Diana if you'd like to enquire about the DVD. d.harris@mawwfire.gov.uk

PAS 7: 2013 is set to become a full British Standard -guidance for the sector will follow. Please email simonince@bbseven.com for more information.

Update from the chair-national social housing fire safety group

An update on primary authority will be provided at the next CHC meeting.

The Mobile scooter guidance has gone to CFOA and is part of the working group

National social housing fire safety group update:

Level 4 Quals - Interest is low. More promotion of courses needed.

Primary Authority – Member Poll to be sent out. Positive view from Exec on co-ordinated partnership. LFB very interested and Mark Andrews expressed some potential to progress this. We discussed linking in with Adrian Hall at BRDO but first need to poll members for a view. Mark offered attendance at regions if needed. MA attending London/SE Meeting

Fire Door Safety Week – Discussed FDSW, positive campaign. Date set for next year and plans to invite Kevin Hullin (FDIS General Manager) to next Exec to build links.

Presentation – by Sinclair Fire. Currently progressing BS and exec suggested case studies relevant to HA's. (See attached)

CFOA Update (MA) – Explained the focus on enforcement initiative and the background on the Higher Risk Accommodation Group. Shared Matrix and Guide for specialised housing. (see attached from MA). Risk Matrix going to CFOA Board for approval. Also requesting anyone in housing/fire sector interested in producing guidance. MA to send through skills required for the post.

PAS 7 – Discussed the PAS moving to BS (this has been confirmed since by Tom Gilbert when I met him on the 19th Nov) and to identify volunteers for a working group with a focus on systems approach.

LABC – Conferences in September went well. Currently focusing on standards review (Part G, Part M and Part Q). Working with Kingspan on external fire spread. FMB have now partnered with LABC. A number of Building Regulation Workshops are being delivered, 1 a month. Martin to send details of the programme. FSF have drafted guide to Reg 38. Martin to circulate to Robert Sneesby.

Chair Nominations – Discussed the need to revisit nominations and vote for chair and vice chair of the NSHFSG. Process to be agreed with Exec and delivered.

Updates from Regions: Key topics discussed were High Rise, Fire Stopping, FRA's in house versus External, PEEPS, Scooters and Vulnerability. Sprinkler site visits occurred in NE. NW and SW groups started to meet. Midlands meeting cancelled and no response from East Midlands.

CFOA FETS Update (AF) – BIM Presentation, Competency Framework being developed for fire engineers with fire and rescue services, Discussed potential ADB Review (since the meeting this is unlikely) and a presentation of a case of Mobility Scooters. (Note: This has developed since where AF is leading now on a small working group and working with CFOA early 2016 to finalise draft for consultation. Suggestion is to deliver some joint seminars once approved and guidance will be tagged with NSHFSG/CFOA. Will update you on this in December)

Member Update – 183 Members registered equates to 1,661,034 homes represented. Between July and October we had 18 new members.

Paul Jenkinson, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, CFOA update and an update on CFOA position statements

Paul talked about CFOA position statements on **Domestic Fire Detection** and **Reducing risk for vulnerable people – a person centred approach** which can be seen on the link here:

<http://chcymru.org.uk/en/events/strategic-groups/strategic-group-information/fire-safety-group>

The requirement for domestic detection would have to be considered a gold standard beyond what would be fitted on most home fire safety checks. These position statements are stand alone documents with no legal basis but can be useful advice of course, although the vulnerable persons position statement might make its way into guidance in the future.

CFOA position fire detection

CFOA are suggesting that the concept of 1 on each floor is not sufficient, recommended they are fitted in every room in the house that is inhabited based on the fire risk of each room. Is the person a hoarder? Has the Fire loading in the room increased? Such issues need to be considered. Heat alarm needs to be fitted in the kitchen. This is a CFOA position statement-not so much the fire and rescue services position

Reducing risk for vulnerable people – a person centred approach

This statement came out of the high risk accommodation group. Doesn't say what accommodation people are in? Be aware of the premise and type of occupants in the building. Are people non ambulant for example? Do you need a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan?

Consider what building is used for now and in the future. Easier to get it right at beginning. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd have done a lot of fire risk assessments – removed fire alarms in common area to allow safe to stay policy to work. Key is getting people to understand that the building is safe and the policy will work. E.g. stay put in Iakanal didn't work

How far does duty of care extend? E.g. peeps plan for lady who is bed bound. No staff to evacuate. Consider what is reasonable. If someone who can't evacuate-notify fire service. Offer them to move-they might not so make sure compartmentation works. Need package of measures to make the best of the situation and be reasonable.

Andy Peterson, a consultant for Taff, has identified vulnerable people through peeps and has got everything else in place. The Fire service has then done home fire safety checks to back up Taffs strategy. Its useful to tag properties where e.g. someone is on oxygen and cant evacuate and let the fire service know about properties so they can do a fire risk assessments and let the fire service know if someone changes address . Andy also said Taff are helping ease the burden on the fire service-collaboration-training Taff staff in fire safety

Carmarthenshire-Sarah Roberts mentioned they have done a lot of practical work on this due to their enforcement notice. For more information, please try contacting lesjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or Rachel RaMDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk (hopefully both or either Les/Rachel still works at Carmarthenshire County Council)

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd -new allocations –they have a referall system to the fire services. Then follow up after 3 months and 6 months. Primary authority is important for this.

There is new legislation in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 which is now in force and introduces the rent smart wales scheme for the registration of landlords and agents.

It also includes the requirement for a Carbon Monoxide detector when a solid fuel appliance is present.

Richard Davies, Mid and West Wales fire service, an update on an All Wales Fire Safety Guide for Social Housing

British standard came out 2015-bs9991 approved-using the term specialised housing. Details here:

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=00000000030301830>

Compartmentation-RSLs need to look at voids and attic spaces-systems in place flat to flat. Important as more RSL's running stay put policies now as not paying people to stay on site. Tell tenant groups what you are doing.

Richie-the primary authority group is key.

Tony Bracie at Welsh Government has developed a system to collect data from tenants, third sector, etc and share information for all relevant groups. This primarily will be via third sector groups identifying vulnerable tenants and requesting a home fire safety check from the fire services, or third sector partner. It is doubtful if compartmentation issues would be picked up within this however it's not impossible. To find out more please email tony.bracey@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The BRE are testing portable sprinklers and mobility scooters looking at heat release and smoke production from burning Mobility Scooters. Ensuring fire safety for the residents of care homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly is one of the biggest challenges facing the fire safety community in the coming decades. The need to maintain fire safety provisions in such buildings often conflicts with the every-day life of the occupants.

But, as well as the potential obstruction to escape, there is now a clear and increasing body of evidence to show that mobility scooters present a fire risk in themselves, often while charging, which can result in the production of quantities of smoke and heat.

Recognising the need for a better understanding of the fire risks from mobility scooters, the BRE Trust and Welwyn Garden City Housing Association (WGC HA) jointly funded a project to examine the characteristics of burning mobility scooters.

Download a copy of Heat release and smoke production from burning Mobility Scooters <https://www.bre.co.uk/page.jsp?id=3667>

Richie has drawn up a new mobility scooter document based on the document Darren Whetton and the group drew up. He has added info from EROSH etc.

Action: Richie is going to send the document to CHC to send out for consultation. It was noted not to wait for the CFOA document. We can make it a fire and rescue approved document in Wales. It's harder to get CFOA to approve it

Richard noted that Mid & West Fire & Rescue Service have had fires in trickle chargers

Statistics are low on fires with mobility scooter but the statistics are wrong. Richie is accessing staff training - will be completed in January. Doing training for RSL's - Please email rj.davies@mawwfire.gov.uk for more information.

Legal note over front door - Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service have got a legal note from David Stotesbury Welsh from the Fire Rescue Service. They are willing to share this. Please email rj.davies@mawwfire.gov.uk for more information.

Statistics are too low to note product brand issues - haven't got stats on mobility scooters yet to know which ones are the problem.

Paul Jenkinson noted the tumble drier issue which has been high profile in the media particularly the Daily Mirror and centres around the recall on Indesit, Creda and Hotpoint tumble driers. The recall info is available on their website and the modifications will be carried out during the year. No driers should be used when in bed or out as the risk of fire is high.

The other recall notice was involving Hoover boards. Electrical appliances should be CE marked and have a British Standard three pin plug. Mobility scooters should not be charged in common areas and preferably not stored there either but need to consider the guidance in the purpose built flats guide.

Colin Blick, Welsh Government, an update on the fire sprinkler regulations and pilot projects

The final report on the fire sprinkler pilot projects is due May/June 2016. Scope of the project is to undertake research to monitor and record the learning experiences in relation to the design and installation of sprinkler systems including the water supply.

BRE as consultants to the Welsh Government prepared a detailed monitoring strategy that covers:

- Design and installation
- Costs and cost savings
- Water supply issues
- Application of statutory guidance
- Experience of all the key stakeholders, including the Building Control Body

Over 177 installations, with a mix of development scale, development type and geography. Involves 8 Registered Social landlords (RSL's) and 1 private major house builder. 12 schemes in 10 local authority areas in Wales

Flintshire (2)	Conwy
Vale of Glamorgan	Cardiff (2)
Swansea	Torfaen
Pembrokeshire	Merthyr Tydfil
Newport	Wrexham

WELSH GOVERNMENT SPRINKLER PILOT PROGRAMME

What are the findings to date?

- Varying costs – some sprinkler installers not used to pricing domestic work
- RSL procurement – Design and Build contract passing on responsibility to the contractor
- Project management - early involvement with sprinkler designer and other service installation designers to prevent installation problems e.g. layout of pump and pipework
- Communication – key with all stakeholders, impact on project management and site co-ordination
- Water authority – cross communication has led to increased costs and wrong specification, so early engagement is essential – are there problems from both sides? The biggest concern to all parties involved
- Installations are quick if all communication is good
- Low number of registered domestic sprinkler installers in Wales
- Familiarity with BS 9251 : 2014 – new document, complete change from the 2005 version
- Regulatory interpretation – extensions to Care Homes
- Contact/involvement with the design team
- Change of use - care requirements and implications e.g. care in the community
- Water company agreement of supply – only quote mandatory requirements – amended guidance has just been issued
- Implications on other regulations – e.g. Part A - water storage additional structural design required
- Schemes are mostly direct mains or enhanced pump apart from some flats which are communal tank and pump
- Major learning objectives from all involved including sprinkler installers
- Creating innovation i.e. mains pumps
- Location and audibility of the sounders – not mentioned in the new BS 9251

- Location of fire mains? In adopted highway? Future responsibility?
- Access to key components and security from misuse

Tannery scheme-flats-only one completed. Installed and commissioned-tenants being interviewed. Good feedback as well. Colin noted it was a shame we didn't get a scheme in mid wales as it's off the water mains.

Installation costs should go down. Pumps should get cheaper and a lot of systems should be mains fed. Booster pumps is an issue-not much confidence to use mains for systems at the moment. Not much difference in costs if you have 2 or 5 bedrooms

Bronte house scheme-supposed to be mains but now requires tank-Linc scheme-there were communication issues. If project management is in place and communication is good=can be quick installation

Newydd housing scheme-biggest problem-design and build-different contractor from contractor who negotiated with welsh water at start and didn't liaise with welsh water early enough -Welsh water wouldn't adopt the fire main. Had to change whole water supply-please see information in the draft pilot report here:

<http://chcymru.org.uk/en/events/networks/network-information/fire-safety-network/>

See the slides for information on costs. One scheme cost £60,000 extra due to miscommunication. Confusion over what is required domestic and industrial. Doubled cost of installation

Need plasterers etc to know about sprinkler legislation so they don't plaster over the sprinkler as sprinkler heads have been damaged by plaster and paint. The Final report will have more of a breakdown on costs etc. Early involvement=key!! The need for effective Communication is the biggest thing to come out of the findings People have been looking at risk-if you can only guarantee e.g. 1.5 bar, people have been putting in expensive tanks just in case. Need to consider risk. Key thing-talk to the water company!!

Installations can be quick if organised. There aren't enough registered installers in wales

Training Initiatives

Neath Port Talbot College have commenced an up-skilling training scheme for plumbers for the installation of domestic automatic fire sprinklers. If you are trained and qualified as a plumber, you can do the upskilling course.

Training available for Building Control Surveyors and other interested parties (1 day course on installation and inspection, will include workshop practical session).

BAFSA recently announced a recognised qualification in the installation of domestic fire sprinklers in Swansea and Manchester.

Following the completion of the Pilot Study events BRE and the Welsh Government will be undertaking feedback events in North and South Wales. Please email Colin.Blick@wales.gsi.gov.uk if you want further details on this training or any other information.

An EU document could supersede the 2014 standards; although the European document for sprinklers is some way off now there have been a number of objections on the content. It looks like the 2014 document will be here for while. The fire sprinkler pilot study report won't be complete until the end of May 2016. Welsh Government is planning on holding feedback sessions with the BRE up south and north Wales next year. Welsh Government will let CHC know early May when the feedback sessions will take place.

If a house changes use and becomes a care facility, then it requires sprinklers. All revolved around whether there is a change of use-if there is then the legislation applies. If only looked after for short period of time then not change of use? Sounders-linked to smoke detectors-shouldn't be outside? The need for highway authority consent noted. The Householders guide is more suited for private householders than RSLs's but Colin said there is useful stuff in there for RSLs.

Action: send out to members to circulate to tenants etc. Colin also has the householders guide in word version in people want it. See the slides for more information on the guide.

BUILDING REGULATION CHANGES (See the slides for more information)

Part 7A - Automatic fire suppression systems

Provision of automatic fire suppression systems

37A.—(1) This regulation applies where building work consists of the erection or material change of use of a building in relation to—

- (a) care homes as defined in section 3 of the Care Standards Act 2000
- (b) rooms for residential purposes other than rooms in-
 - (i) a hostel
 - (ii) an hotel
 - (iii) a prison or young offender institution and
 - (iv) a hospital

CAME INTO EFFECT ON THE 30 APRIL 2014

- (c) dwelling-houses and flats

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- (c) dwelling-houses and flats

COMES INTO EFFECT 1 JANUARY 2016

Welsh Government circular was issued 29 August highlighting the introduction of automatic fire suppression systems in dwellings and flats on the 1 January 2016:

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/buildingregs/circulars/building-regulation-circular-wg-008-2015/?lang=en>

Amendments to Approved Document B volume 1 (Dwelling houses) and volume 2 (Buildings other than dwelling houses) have been published on line:

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/buildingregs/publications/part-b-fire/?lang=en>

Current Building Regulations Part B considers sprinklers as a 'compensatory measure' allowing relaxation of certain conditions new requirements mean the provision of fire sprinklers make these "the norm" e.g.:

- B1 - Travel distances for escape may be extended
- B1 - Freedom to allow 'open plan' design in three-storey dwellings and apartments subject to BCB agreement
- B4 - Space separation on boundaries - buildings may be built closer together
- B5 - Certain requirements for access for the fire service may be relaxed (pump appliance 60m with sprinklers 45m without)

Volume 1 Dwelling houses and Volume 2 Buildings other than dwelling houses - 2016 versions

- New Section 2 – Residential automatic fire suppression systems
- Reference to the revised BS 9251 : 2014 – Fire sprinkler systems in domestic and residential occupancies
- AD updated to reference sprinklers in text and diagrams
- Where previously used as design freedom (compensatory feature), this will now be required by regulation
- Where a fire engineered approach is proposed and a sprinkler system forms part of the fire strategy, BCB will need to consider the overall approach of the fire strategy
- Guidance on maintenance of sprinkler systems

LOCAL AUTHORITY ROUTE

Full plans or Building Notice deposited and registered with the local authority before 1 January 2016:

- Work to commence on site before 1 January 2017
- This requires 1 plot to commence on a multi-plot site
- If work does not commence before 1 January 2017 the regulations will apply

APPROVED INSPECTOR ROUTE

- Initial notice given to the local authority in accordance with the principal regulations
- Work to commence on site before 1 January 2017
- This requires 1 plot to commence on a multi-plot site
- If work does not commence before 1 January 2017 the regulations will apply

SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW

Following removal of TAN22 consultants looked at what elements of the previous requirements could be useful within Building Regulations. Minister asked for 5 areas to be considered. Working Groups were set up and have met on two occasions

Areas being considered:

- Residential acoustics
- Information for the end user
- Residential security and lighting
- Materials (sourcing and life cycle impact)
- Water efficiency

The Consultation is currently out

MINOR REVISIONS OF APPROVED DOCUMENTS A,B AND C

Technical updating changes such as updating document references
Approved Documents A and C will be changed to the Welsh Government document format

Pilots-one change of use project-only one retrofit project?

Leaseholder fire doors-persuade them to fit fire door? Who funds it? Tai calon putting onus of the cost of the door on the leaseholders. Some RSL's are funding it. Fire service might go down the enforcement route with the leaseholder if they refuse a door-section 20? Threshold issue?

Barrister has been steering towards HHSRS? Look at it for changing doors advice.

Merthyr Valleys Homes have had an issue with pressure and tankage for retrofitting sprinklers. They couldn't get a 10 minute supply-they got non conformity certificate. Merthyr Valleys Homes would rather 9 minutes than 0 minutes. Is it sufficient?

Portable suppressing sprinkler units-there is a large capital grant for the 3 fire services to install them. They don't meet the British standard but its improving the situation/reducing risk even if there is no requirement to install them. The fire services are giving them to local health trusts to fund for people at risk. RSLs would refer people to dedicated home safety team in the fire service. Funding can be available for high risk tenants from the fire & rescue services as they get a capita grant from Welsh government. They are a temporary measure and can be taken out. One system has gone off without a fire-need insurance to cover this. Hard to get insurance if doesn't meet British standard. The fire service doesn't give many of these out. Who maintains? The fire service arranges this with the landlord. Legionella testing is not required.

HIGH SPEED COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

European Directive for provision of broadband. Building regulations seen as the preferred method to implement the legislation. Will require a new Approved Document – AD R. Provision will mostly be provided by a ducting from the external to the internal wall. Currently being undertaken by new housebuilders. Requirement is for the infrastructure to be put into place not the broadband speed. Will come into force on the 31 December 2016. Unified approach by Wales, England and Northern Ireland

QUESTIONS?

Enquiries.brconstruction@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Colin.Blick@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Emma Rooke, MHRA, reporting medical devices and fire safety

The Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency isn't getting all the information they need to look into which scooters and other devices have fire safety issues. Action: Please report any fire safety issues you have with Medicines & Healthcare Products to the MHRA

The MHRA Regulate medical device manufacturers and put out medical device alerts.

What is an Adverse Incident?

An event that causes, or has the potential to cause, unexpected or unwanted effects involving the safety of patients, users or other persons. Report to the MHRA when

a) the problem involves a medical device

and

b) the problem with/failure of the product has caused or could have caused injury

If in doubt, please report it!

Adverse incident-instructions not clear? Manual not clear for device? Then the MHRA want to know. Report to MHRA any issues with medical devices e.g.

Medical devices you may come across can include:

- Powered wheelchairs
- Mobility Scooters
- Oxygen Concentrators
- Electrically powered medical devices

What is a Medical Device?

Any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material or other article...to be used for human beings for the purpose of:

- - diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease,
- - diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury or handicap,
- - investigation, replacement or modification of the anatomy or of a physiological process,
- - control of conception,
- and which does not achieve its principal intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in its function by such means;

Who should report and when?

Anyone! Clinicians, Suppliers, Patients, Medical Device Liaison Officers, Manufacturers...

If you would like to discuss it first, get in touch:

MHRA Adverse Incident Centre

Tel: 020 3080 7080, aic@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

Please report any issues as soon as possible, providing as much detail as you can

www.mhra.gsi.gov.uk

Please include:

- Manufacturer, device type and model name

- Without these
 - the manufacturer cannot investigate
 - MHRA will not be able to determine whether your report is part of a wider problem
- Details of what happened
- Who MHRA and the manufacturer can contact for further information about the incident report

What happens next?

The MHRA will tell you within 10 working days of receipt of your report what we plan to do

The MHRA will always:

- send your report to the manufacturer for their internal investigation
- add your report to our database

Our database is reviewed regularly to identify patterns where further action is needed

The MHRA do not investigate every report

When do MHRA investigate?

- When we receive a report of death or serious injury

or

- When the manufacturer's investigation indicates a wider problem

or

- When we detect a pattern in reported problems

If we decide to do this, we will let you know and keep you informed of our progress

What does an MHRA investigation involve?

We may

- ask the manufacturer for details of their findings
- ask them to investigate further
- ask them to consider corrective action

Why should I report?

If problems are not reported, they won't be resolved

MHRA investigations can result in:

- Changes to design/instructions
- Safety related warnings/advice being issued
- Education to reduce "use-errors"
- Field Safety Corrective Actions

- Removal from the market

Why your report counts

Receipt of **13,282*** reports in 2014 resulted in the following actions:-

- **104** design modifications
- **130** labelling/instructions-for-use changes
- **26** cases of production being ceased
- **341** manufacturer undertakings to manufacturing process and quality assurance
- **42** medical device alerts issued

Further information, including an application form for requests to reproduce the MHRA material can be sought from copyright@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please get in touch

MHRA Adverse Incident Centre

aic@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 020 3080 7080

There was an incident with a scooter was accidentally left on with the forward stick against a wall- there was overheating of the scooter and then a fire.

Oxygen concentrators-people smoking-people put towels over the top of these can result in Overheating and fire

For details on how to report please look at the slides etc. Manufacture, device type and model name

The MHRA look at patterns and see if fires are caused by products from the same manufacturer, same models etc. The MHRA find it useful if you tell them how it happened. They can keep an RSL report anonymous. The Manufacturer usually does an investigation and will get in touch with the RSL. The MHRA might investigate themselves.

MHRA send out an alert if there are issues with the same manufacturer, products. MHRA don't take reports on stairlifts, but do take reports on hoists as hoists are in the medical advice directives.

Here is a [link](#) to the Medical Device Directive (it's the top one, Council Directive 93/42/EEC) – these are rules for medical device manufacturers to follow. They are currently under review.

Yellow card scheme - now covers Medical Devices too

John Littlewood, Cardiff Met University, air testing/smoke testing- Testing building fabric performance, and the potential impacts upon occupant safety, energy efficiency and acoustic performance

Since this presentation, John has already had some inquiries about the work from two housing associations and one of the Fire Officer Safety Officers has been spreading the word. The presentation has raised the lid on two issues that need consideration: i). does compartmentation actually work in practice, to prevent smoke and fire spread between dwellings for 30 minutes or 60 minutes and into means of escape; ii). Is a compliance test needed that can be undertaken during the construction/commissioning of dwellings to demonstrate that compartmentation does work, and if it does not then remediation measures can be taken – before occupancy to ensure safety and means of escape work in the event of a real fire in a dwelling/s.

John noted issues with compartmentation. He has undertaken research on a project with RSLs and the fire service developing methodology to address issues with compartmentation. John would recommend a thermal camera to pick up defects- Construction defects, the Performance gap, etc.

Air leakage impacts on smoke spread. In construction testing has been developed by Cardiff Met. It is primarily using thermography. Bad practice is impacting air permeability. Please ask jlittlewood@cardiffmet.ac.uk for key points on what contactors should be doing during the construction process.

There are no approved details to deal with compartmentation and 30 minute/60 minute smoke spread rule. Role of building control?

John is doing air tests and combining this with smoke tests. With the Smoke test, within a minute smoke was coming out of the eaves. Within a Minute and 30 seconds, smoke was next door in a property which was supposed to have 30 minute compartmentation

Smoke was passing through electrical sockets in a timber frame building. There is no compliance test to check that compartmentation is working. John said that its needed. The tests can help RSL's put things right in the end.

Second case study:

Flats-within a minute, 8 other flats had smoke in them-flats above, below and across. Smoke was going through light fittings, through cavity wall, window sills, etc.

Need to check measurements on site. Some are doing tests with sockets taped up etc which you shouldn't do. Same issues occurring in timber frame, brick block, etc. Buildings are signed off and then issues are identified

We need changes to approved document B. We have nothing for smoke and fire performance in approved document B. There have been many instances where

compartmentation and/or cavity barriers have failed. This may be because cavity barriers are damaged, not installed properly, etc. There needs to be approved details for smoke and fire performance and approved compliance tests. We need to explore how we develop a test that becomes a compliance test for smoke and fire performance.

Action: CHC need to lobby this

Hyde Housing association -took a contractor to court and won. It was an extra care facility where a fire spread quickly-it was concluded that the contractor didn't do their job properly

RSLs's are building a lot more timber frame buildings now

John has funding to do these tests and wants to work with fire service and HA's and look at the adequacy of approved document b,. They have a testing room in Cardiff met, to look at people reaction in rooms to smoke, when they react etc

Action: John said Cardiff Met are willing to work with more RSLs if they are interested to carry out tests on properties, extra care schemes etc.

Robert Alexander, EEE safe, re-furbished white goods and fire safety

Robert drew attention to goods that had been recalled:

<http://eesafe.com/hotpoint-indesit-creda-tumble-drier-recalls/>

Robert asked HA's to write to ask if you would like to inform your Tenants of the new fire risks announced. EEEsafe are all about preventing fires in everyone's home and they are not selling anything here, but simply raising awareness to protect people, properties and neighbours where the risk exists. EEEsafe operate a National Appliance Safety Register that monitors every registered home and their appliances on a 24/7/365, aimed at preventing Electrical Fires. EEE safe offer the potential to identify and share with the Fire Service, the make and manufacturer of appliances deemed to be the cause of the fire.

EEEsafe advise repairers to delint Driers before they put them on the market again, which sadly is not part of any recognised process in refurbishment. More than 4 million electrical appliances have been recalled by manufacturers in the past four years, for faults that include a risk of fire or electric shock , and yet the majority may still be in UK homes.

Since the start of 2011, there have been 228 recall notices for electrical products, including seven types of fridges, four washing machines and seven hairdryers. However, only 10-20% of recalled products are ever returned or repaired.

Around half of all accidental domestic fires in the UK are caused by electricity, with the vast majority of these attributed to electrical appliances. Electrical appliances are the third most frequently notified product group when it comes to recalls.

The need to improve consumer awareness of, and response to, recalls is something of which we are all very much aware. Research carried out by Electrical Safety First has indicated that two million adults have consciously ignored a recall notice for an electrical item. Many people associate recalls with 'annoying faults' rather than safety. They are not aware of the risks of continuing to use a recalled product. They think that responding to a notice and returning a product will be too much hassle. And if it's a luxury item, like a television or beauty product, they are not prepared to do without it.

Electrical Appliance Repairs had no 3rd Party Competent Persons independent scheme or standard to provide consumers with assurances they deserve. Many are left with household dangers due to incompetency and a distinct lack of the right depth of knowledge of how an Appliance works. Whilst they are good practices, PAT Testing does not make an appliance safe to use and nor does Function Testing. If you don't know what you're looking for, then you'll easily miss dangers that could cause serious accidents and fires.

Additionally, with no system to ensure Product Recalls were monitored on a 24/7 basis, EEE safe felt they had to take action. Product Recalls are a known Fire Risk and research shows that 80% of all recalls are unknown. EE safe love Reuse and Repair and because of the dangers in a lack of regulation and standards on Electrical Reuse, EEESafe was put in place.

EEE safe are currently promoted by the UK Fire Service and the Insurance Sector and they talk with Government on Social Justice, Waste Prevention and Climate change matters. Robert raised awareness for CHC members and the opportunity to use the EESafe National Appliance Safety Register, which is also available to households. If you are a Charity, Landlord, Housing Association, Community Group or an Appliance Repair business then EEE safe invite you to work with them.

Robert talked about EEE safes 2 Week Certified Training Course to become a Community Repairer for white goods. EEESafe Domestic Appliance Technician (DATc). Please note that there are Pre-requisites to becoming certified, as it is not safe to believe that someone can have sufficient knowledge in a short time. You can Download the [EEESafe DATc Course Schedule](#) and this course is also a pre-requisite to becoming a Registered EEESafe Training Centre.

EE safe have announced a new Training Centre in Southern England where once Training The Trainer (TTT) program is completed, it will be delivering DATc Training in that region. Already this means thousands of Appliances prevented from Waste, will be repaired to the EEESafe Standard and available to buy online, complete with Labels and our NASR leaflets in every appliance. It is intended that the goods will eventually only be sold to Registered DATs (Domestic Appliance Technicians) or DARs. Domestic Appliance Refurbishers.

EE safe have a further 12 Centres in the Pipeline for England and looking for others throughout the UK. EEE safe have posted a Volunteer Recruitment Page, which you can find here. <http://localiteee.com/lcva>

EEE safe have just posted the 2nd Part of their PAT Testing in Reused Appliances. <http://eeesafe.com/pat2> There are some important issues to look out for in the Reuse Sector. The article picks up on the risks in the current situation, and they'll be continuing to lobby government in UK and in Wales, particularly as they try to get the Register and Repair Standard in law, where Landlords are concerned. Brief details are on their Website at www.eeesafe.com/training

Recycled Components Platform. EEE safe have is helping create jobs within the community, through their EEESafe Domestic Appliance Technicians Course and Competent Persons Card scheme. Robert raised awareness for CHC members and the opportunity to use their Register. The Register can be utilised outside the Community Hubs and is completely free. Within the Hub, any Electrical Appliance sales activities from a Hubs classified Ads or the Community Online Auction Shop, would automatically go into their Register. They would then check them and notify if there were a current Recall Notice. They are working with the Fire Investigators to directly look up the database and tell people before they sell an item, whether it's a recall before they sell it. Other features in the hub is carrying the PAT Certificate with the Second Hand Appliance. All of this helps capture and prevent fire risks, but also in a Hub it's reported as a prevention from Landfill and adds to the Hubs report on Waste Saving. Tjey are are going to be recruiting on an national basis, EEESafe DAT's (Domestic Appliance Technicians) who must follow their protocol and report safety readings via their Website. This is one way that they can keep an eye on their work, but they are also required to encourage tenants and homeowners to register their home appliances with our National Appliance Safety Register.

The Register now does a live check against the known Product Recalls, (not just White Goods), and informs the customer of what action to take. They do this for anything known as a "risk" and not just Recalls. This gives the customer a choice and a warning that something could go wrong, whereas Manufacturers historically will not notify a customer and some of those warnings historically, proved fatal sadly. So they exist as a "choice" or alternative to a Manufacturer Registration without any calls or emails to sell something else.

EEEsafe have just secured their first Training The Trainer order from an organisation in England. This means they will soon be able to deliver our 2 Week Certification Course on repairing White Goods. Through this deal they will be processing around 1300 used appliances per month and selling them out to the UK. Every appliance will have our Appliance Register leaflet inside, and will also mention the LocalitEEE Shop for a safe place to buy and sell used appliances. This is going to be the first of 13 sites that will run their Training Course, and all the additional appliances from other sites will be doing exactly the same. They are looking to sell these units only to Registered DAT's or other centres that will run our protocols.

LocalitEEE delivers that safety as well as the shop looks up the Recall data at the time of uploading goods, and will stamp a product as not been checked, if the seller does not take the appropriate steps to check. They hope in the future to only allow checked items for sale, but for now we're putting the onus on the seller, but definitely informing the buyer. That way tenants and home-owners can make an informed choice on whether to purchase or take for free, a new fire risk into the home. All appliances sold through the shop, will automatically be added to their Register.

Additionally, if any of CHC's Members have contractors interested in becoming EEEsafe Registered Domestic Appliance Repairers, they too can purchase them at a further discount. Registration for existing Appliance Repairers starts from an annual payment of £45 and they can provide more leads for them once they come on board. EEE safe are working with one of their Registered Training Centres in England who is processing them to their Safety Standard and are looking for Repairers in Wales who will sell and/or deliver and install them in properties, according to their standards.

Anybody can do it-Operate a competent person scheme. Write more on planet ERP- keen for RSLs to do work with them on this basis. Prevention is better than cure

It takes about 5 minutes to register a product. RSL's need to tell tenants to register. Would RSLs consider it mandatory for tenants to register? It is up to a H.A if they want to make tenants register, or encourage tenants to register by advertising in newsletters and website, etc

There is an online forum for sharing knowledge-please email r.alexander@eesafe.com for more information.

Competency - please email r.alexander@eesafe.com for more information.

With the EEE coin social currency you get rid of stuff with no waste disposal costs. You can put the HA name on coin to see where your cash is going. More information can be seen here:

<http://eesafe.com/buy-donate-appliance/>

A report says that:

- 77% would respond to a recall notice if they had a better understanding of the dangers.
- A fifth would respond to a notice for a large product rather than a small one, yet we found the electrical items most reported as faulty or dangerous are smaller ones such as chargers, hairdryers, toasters and kettles
- People don't want their data to be used for marketing purposes. 61% said they would be more likely to register products if they were assured their details would not be used for marketing

Download a copy of the full report, **Consumer Voices on Product Recall**

Electrical Safety First is calling on consumers to:

- **1. Check:** Ensure the safety of all your electrical appliances today using the free Electrical Safety First online product checker. Just enter the model number, brand name or description of your product to see if your product has been recalled. If it has, you will be then advised on next steps. Go to www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/recall
- **2. Register:** Whenever you buy an electrical item, the first thing you should do is to register it with the manufacturer as this is the easiest way for them to contact you should there be a problem. Don't be put off by marketing or the fear that your details will be shared with third parties as it's easy to opt out of this.
- **3. React:** Keep an eye out for recall notices and act on them straight away. Manufacturers try and reach their customers in numerous ways, including posters in shops, adverts in newspapers, emails and letters, and on social media.

Please see the links below for further information:

<http://eeesafe.com/>

<http://eeesafe.com/hotpoint-indesit-creda-tumble-drier-recalls/>

<http://blog.localiteee.com/government-delay-puts-lives-at-risk/>

<http://www.larac.org.uk/news/health-and-safety-and-re-furbished-white-goods#.VmF2VHbhCUl>

<http://www.larac.org.uk/news/health-and-safety-and-re-furbished-white-goods#.VnkobfmLSUm>

<http://eeesafe.com/swansea-council-promo/>

<https://bitscan.com/articles/eeecoin-crypto-for-good>

<http://eesafe.com/swansea-council-promo/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iXdxJpYuMg&feature=youtu.be>

<http://eesafe.com/eesafe-invited-to-speak-to-chief-fire-officers-association/>

<http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/news-and-campaigns/campaigns/product-recall/>

Andrew Trice Synergymc2 Limited/GlowMark

Please see the general use in public areas and ROI PDF files on CHCs website.

Andrew talked through about GlowMark technology-please see the documents on CHC's website for more information. GlowMark technology works by absorbing its energy from natural day light and artificial light, it is permanently active and ready for use because when exposed to light that charges and activates a unique glow compound that is encased within a tough durable optical quality polycarbonate plastic lens, which encases and protects it. The products can be used on pathways, cycle paths, bridges, tunnels, underpasses, pedestrian crossings and roads, where public members, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists would benefit from a higher level of night time visibility that can be cost effectively implemented by installing and using strategically placed safety GlowMark products and markings in these many potentially hazardous lowlight areas.

GlowMark Arrows provide a safer level of directional visibility for drivers/people by using a colour coded system for traffic control and speed management in towns, cities, motorways, highways and in rural areas. They can be used for e.g. pointing people to exits in extra care schemes.

The product complies with EU directives. The company have products designed and ready to go to manufacture. The products are different to other manufacturers as they don't use chemicals? Andrew mentioned case studies with Colorado- Fire fighters crawling as smoke and heat rises –a tool which rings fire fighter who is downstairs on laptop and has map plan of building layout? Ask andrew@synergymc2.com for more information.

The products work internally and and externally. Any form of ambient light will charge it. The products will glow for 48 hours after 8 minutes/hours of sunlight? Ask andrew@synergymc2.com for more information to clarify this.

The product is fire retardant up to a certain temperature- Ask andrew@synergymc2.com for more information to clarify this.

Price-recommended retail price-£6.87 per unit. £8.12 with reflective rate. Andrew will offer at wholesale price which distributors give it so will be cheaper than this-

happy to negotiate. Wholesale bulk orders-it's sold through distributors at the moment. Minimum of a 1000 units per time. Its fully recyclable.

Swansea county council are thinking of putting the product in sheltered complexes to aid the residents and external areas of the high rise blocks by the doors. They might put them everywhere and anywhere. Andrew is going to Swansea to show products further to Darren Whetton in Swansea City Council. The products don't require maintenance. Dover port authority is using the products. The product can be used in any situation and Andrew has developed a new way to make alternative shapes. The product can be used on fire fighters equipment, bicycles and any other situations that you can think of.

An opportunity for open discussions-a chance for members to raise issues to be discussed (Shea to raise locksmiths issue and Fire risk assessments taking into account need and issues such as fuel poverty- candles and fire safety)

Next meeting ideas:

- * Discussion on looking at procedures and guidance for dealing with non ambulant people. Have presentations on high risk accommodation worked examples. An action plan? We need a PEEP format. We need a more consistent process of questions. Carmarthenshire-invite along Andrew Rees (Richard Davies has details). We need a model template and set of guidelines to what goes in each box (Paul Jenkinson, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service suggested this sounds good)
- * look at sprinkler retrofitting best practice guide
- * look at and develop further the householders guide that Welsh Government have developed around sprinklers
- * Discussion on Richard Davies', Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service, scooter guide-get everyone to feedback to Richie and me direct and I can collect feedback to see if its consistent and clear messages for Richie to change anything
- * Home safety check issue- Paul Jenkinson, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service to present on this process and what devices can be put in the home
- * Local Authority Building Control-converting buildings for refurb
- * Locksmiths- Richard Davies', Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service to show a DVD. Richard has a product to save the costs of smashing down the door. The DVD needs narrative alongside it. We need training on how not to smash a door in. Go to door manufacturer.
- * Fuel poverty and candles fire safety. Any solutions? Darren from Swansea City council noted that they send leaflets, posters, etc, out to tenants along with metal

signs and posters around blocks warning people to put candles out at certain points due to fire safety issues.

Action: One of the leaflets and laminated signs Swansea City Council give to the residents as well as two metal signs they install by every lift in the blocks will be added to CHC's website.

* Bolt on external lifts for extra care, sheltered schemes, etc.