

IRONMONGERY AND COMPETENCY GAI SPECIFIER'S GUIDE

The specifier's guide to understanding competency in the specification of ironmongery, and the relevant legislation and building regulations that need to be adhered to.

COMPETENCE



IRONMONGERY AND COMPETENCY GAI SPECIFIER'S GUIDE

The specifier's guide to Ironmongery and Competency explains the importance of competency in the specification of ironmongery and the legislation and building regulations that need to be adhered to.

To ensure that your project meets the latest standards, regulation, legislation and best practice, it is strongly recommended that the ironmongery should be specified by a GAI Registered Professional such as a Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI). All RegAI's have successfully completed the GAI Diploma in Scheduling qualification, and continue to maintain and update their knowledge through the GAI continuing professional development (CPD) programme. RegAI status is a clear demonstration of professional competence in matters which are critical to building safety, accessibility and security. Visit www.gai.org.uk/RegAI.

CONTENTS

1. COMPETENCE BACKGROUND	Page 3
2. FULFILLING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DESIGNER	Page 4-5
3. COMPETENCE AGENDA	Page 6-9
4. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	Page 10-11
5. INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION	Page 12
6. MANAGING THE RISKS	Page 13-14
7. FURTHER HELP & ADVICE	Page 15-16

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1. COMPETENCE BACKGROUND

DEFINITION OF COMPETENCE

Competence is defined in the Cambridge dictionary as "the ability to do something well". An example given is "students can prove their competence by performing well in the exam".

The Building Safety Act 2022 defines competence requirements as requirements relating to:

- (a) the skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours of an individual;
- (b) the capability of a person other than an individual to perform its functions under building regulations.

The Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 (and equivalents in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland) which applies to all construction work also states that you must legally have the appropriate competencies to work on a project. This is of particular importance for designers.

DEFINITION OF A DESIGNER

According to the The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM): A designer is an organisation or individual whose business involves preparing or modifying designs for construction projects, or arranging for, or instructing, others to do this.

Designs include drawings, design details, specifications, bills of quantity and design calculations.

Designers can be architects, consulting engineers, quantity surveyors and interior designers, or anyone who specifies and alters designs as part of their work.

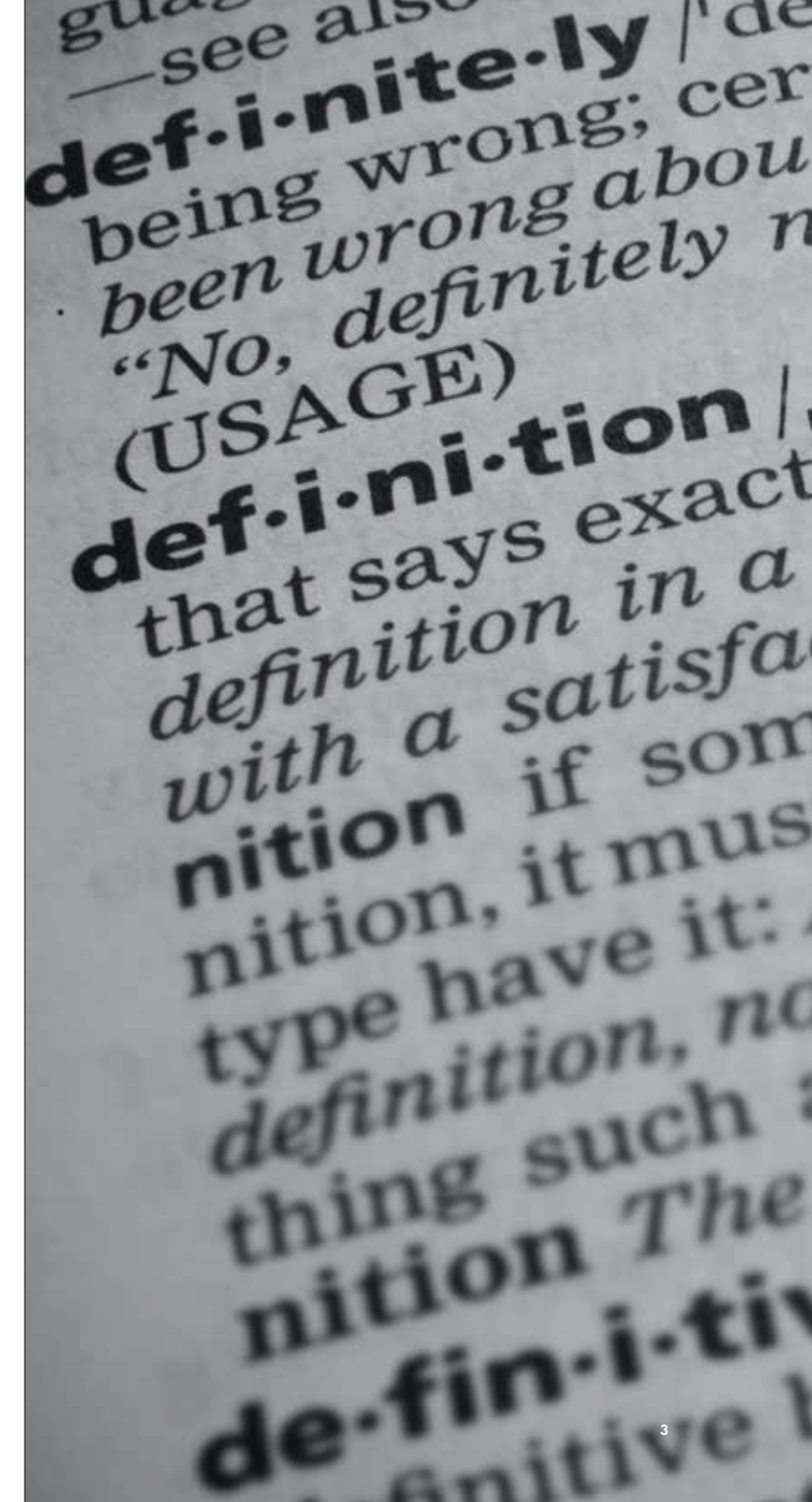
They can also be principal contractors, specialist contractors, tradespeople or even commercial clients, if they get actively involved in design work for their project.

This means that across the UK and Ireland designers can be anyone who:

- Specifies.
- Alters designs as part of their work.

Designs include:

- Drawings.
- Design details.
- Specifications.
- Bills of quantity.
- Design calculations.



2. FULFILLING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DESIGNER

Under CDM, the Ironmonger is a designer. Therefore it is important to understand the responsibilities of this role which include the following.

BE COMPLIANT AND BE COMPETENT

In all cases, the designer is responsible in ensuring that the design meets the requirements of the Building Regulations (in England) or equivalent in each devolved nation, as well as ensuring the construction can be carried out safely in accordance with the Construction Design Management Regulations. In each case, the person should be competent to carry out the role.

In the context of BSI Flex Standard 8670 Competence Framework Standard, for an individual to be considered competent means that they need to have the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience, combined with appropriate behaviours.



ENSURE YOU HAVE CORRECT KNOWLEDGE

Architectural ironmongers and specifiers must be competent to ensure the manufacture, specification and supply of doors and hardware is compliant, and therefore should be highly conversant in the following areas:

- Fire Safety.
- Accessibility.
- Security.
- Health and Safety.

They should also have detailed knowledge of the following and how they apply locally:

- Product Standards and Codes of Practice.
- Legislation.
- Building Regulations and Approved Documents.
- Keep yourself up to date on products, standards and legislation.
- Avail of industry briefings and info e.g. from GAI Knowledge Base.
- Avail of any and all training from Trade Associations and product manufacturers and ensure it is recorded.
- Ensure you are fully qualified in your chosen areas of expertise:
 - Scheduling (DipGAI).
 - Access Control (DipAC).
 - Doors as Systems (DipDS).
 - Standards and Regulations (Cert SRA).
 - Powered Pedestrian Doors (ADSA Training).

SPECIFY CORRECTLY

UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) state: "A designer has a strong influence, particularly during the very early planning and design stages of a project. Decisions such as selecting materials or components of a building can avoid, reduce or control risks involved in constructing a building and maintaining and using it after it is built."

It is therefore of utmost importance that the specification of ironmongery product is appropriate and is prepared by a competent and qualified professional who:

- Is aware of and up to date with current legislation.
- Uses the latest technology and products available.
- Specifies to the latest BS, EN and international standards.



2. FULFILLING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DESIGNER CONT'D

LIMITS OF COMPETENCE

Being competent means knowing the limits of one's own competency. If asked to perform a duty which it is felt is beyond a person's limit of competency, then they should know when to say no.

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCE

UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) state the following:

"A designer must be able to demonstrate they have the health and safety skills, knowledge and experience (SKE)".

Examples of demonstrating SKE might include:

- Records of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- Membership of professional institutions or bodies".

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCE WITH CPD

One means of demonstrating that an individual's competence is up to date includes being a Registered Professional who is qualified in a GAI CPD scheme such as RegAI and equivalent. This means:

- Being a member of GAI.
- Being fully qualified to DipGAI/DipDS/DipAC/CertSRA.
- Completing the register of 20 points from a variety of CPD presentations and other activities provided by industry and facilitated through GAI webinars and Community Hubs.
- Providing a visible demonstration of competency and that learning is up to date.
- Displaying the ability to be a person who is "of material use" and is in compliance with Approved Document 7: Materials and Workmanship.
- Having these credentials as a Registered Professional published on GAI website.

3. DRIVERS FOR COMPETENCE

*It will no longer be enough to state that you are competent –
you will need more than ever now to demonstrate your competence*

GRENFELL TOWER TRAGEDY

On 14th June 2017, the Grenfell Tower fire spread primarily through its external cladding, tragically killing 72 people.

The Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry identified matters of concern relating to construction products including the testing and certification of materials, design and choice of materials, fire doors and smoke extraction systems.

As a response to the Grenfell tragedy the UK Government launched an independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety: The Hackitt Review, entitled "Building a Safer Future".

This was a scathing report and a massive indictment on UK Construction Industry.

UK BUILDING SAFETY ACT

UK Government announced the publication of the Building Safety Act on 28th April 2022:

- This is seen as a key step in an extensive overhaul to building safety legislation and is set out to implement all 53 of the Hackitt Review recommendations.
- All those working on high rise residential buildings (buildings in scope) will be required to demonstrate and maintain competence.
- Competence frameworks will be a key element of displaying competency.
- It is in full effect under English Law, but it also has requirements for those working in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



UK BUILDING SAFETY REGULATOR

The Building Safety Act sees the creation of a Building Safety Regulator role (under auspices of HSE) which will have the following functions:

- Promote competence for all buildings, including industry and professionals working on buildings, and building control bodies;
- Lead the delivery of the new, more stringent regulatory regime for buildings in scope.
- Provide oversight for the safety and performance of all buildings.
- Target enforcement activity at cases where action is needed.

3. DRIVERS FOR COMPETENCE CONT'D



UK CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATOR

The Building Safety Act also sees the creation of a Construction Product Regulator role:

- Following evidence given during the Grenfell Tower Inquiry poor practices in the construction products industry came to light, damaging the industry's reputation.
- The NRCP will encourage good practice, enforce the law, and educate the industry, the government says.
- The regulator will have strong enforcement powers including the ability to conduct its own product-testing when investigating concerns.
- Businesses must ensure that their products are safe before being sold in addition to testing products against safety standards.

DRAFT COMPETENCE REGULATIONS

- Draft competence regulations will be issued to support the Building Safety Act.
- They apply to all building work that requires building regulations approval - They do NOT just apply to 'buildings in scope'.
- Duty-holders must demonstrate a competent workforce.
- Competence as skills, knowledge, experience and behaviour.
- Competent to 'say no' - i.e. "refusing to carry out any building work which is not compliant".
- Companies must ensure workforce does not go beyond their competence.

UK BUILDING SAFETY REGULATOR

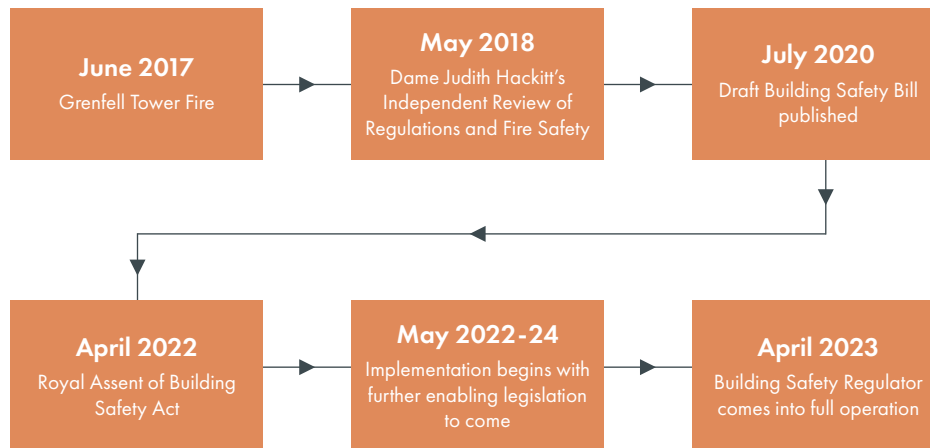
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3. DRIVERS FOR COMPETENCE CONT'D



BUILDING SAFETY ACT - TIMELINE



INDUSTRY COMPETENCE GROUPS

The Competence Steering Group (CSG) was created as an industry-led group and was established in the immediate aftermath of the Grenfell fire to develop increased competence in construction.

WG 12 for construction products is one of the Working Groups under the CSG. Its aim is to create a solution that ensures that those interacting with construction products are competent to do so and can demonstrate their competence to others.

A key output of WG12 is the "White Paper - proposed construction product competence (CPC) standard" (The White Paper can be [downloaded here](#)). This provides a means of creating Construction Products Competence Frameworks.

This will be developed into a BSI British Standard.

3. DRIVERS FOR COMPETENCE CONT'D

GAI COMPETENCE ACTIVITY

The GAI are represented on:

- Competence Steering Group.
- WG12 Construction Products Competence Group (which GAI co-chair).
- Interim Industry Competence Committee Baseline Group.

GAI have set up an Ironmongery Industry Competence Working Group to create a series of CPC Frameworks which will be rolled out across the industry.

GAI will also be represented on the drafting panel for the new BS Standard for Construction Products Competence.

RELEVANT COMPETENCY STANDARDS

As a direct result of a recommendation from the Hackitt Report following the Grenfell Tower tragedy BSI started work on new competence standards.

BSI Flex 8670 was the first of these documents. It provides a set of core principles of competence for individuals working in the built environment and will be upgraded to full BS in 2023.

Further standards which have all been published in 2022 are as follows:

- PAS 8671 Competence of the Principal Designer.
- PAS 8672 Competence of the Principal Contractor.
- PAS 8673 Framework for competence of Building Safety Managers.

GAI have had involvement in the creation and review of all these standards. These standards are all available free of charge [through this link](#).

COMPETENCE SCHEMES – CCPI

The Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI) will help organisations drive higher standards in the presentation of construction product information, prioritising building safety.

The objective of the Code is that any claim made about a Construction Product must be substantiated by appropriate, clear, and unambiguous evidence.

Whether written in a brochure, a presentation, on a website or social media, the CCPI will seek to provide assurance that users of product information have the necessary facts when making decisions about specifying or installing their verified products.

The CCPI is built around these five 'acid tests' - product information must be:

- Clear.
- Accurate.
- Up-to-date.
- Accessible.
- Unambiguous.

This scheme has backing of UK Government through OPSS as well as Dame Judith Hackitt.

4. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE



FIRE SAFETY LEGISLATION

This is a list of the fire safety legislation throughout the UK and Ireland:

- England and Wales: Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order:2005.
- Scotland: The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.
- NI - Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.
- Republic of Ireland - Fire Services Act (1981 and 2003).
- These all place a duty of care on every person who has control over a premises to make adequate provision for the safety of everyone on their premises.

APPROVED DOCUMENTS

An Approved Document gives practical guidance about how to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations for England and also for Wales. An Approved Document is not a Building Regulation in itself.

- An Approved Document is not law.
- There may be other ways to comply with Building Regulations, but you must demonstrate that the regulations have been complied with by some other acceptable means.
- Note that compliance with an Approved Document can be a good defence in court.

APPROVED DOCUMENT B - FIRE SAFETY

Approved Document B in England covers fire safety matters within and around buildings. In July 2018, the UK Government announced it was to launch a full-scale review of Approved Document B to clarify and reduce the complexity of fire safety guidance. A new clarified version of Approved Document B was published in July 2019 and remained in two volumes:

- Volume 1: Dwellings.
- Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings.

APPROVED DOCUMENT B EQUIVALENTS

Approved Document B has a number of equivalents throughout UK and Ireland, listed in the table below:

	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Ireland
Fire safety	Approved Document B	Technical Handbook 2	Technical Booklet E	Technical Document B

These are not identical to each other therefore it is important to be aware of these differing documents when supplying into the appropriate jurisdictions.

ACCESSIBILITY – LAW AND REGULATIONS

This is a list of the approved documents regarding accessibility, and their equivalents throughout the UK and Ireland:

- Great Britain: Equality Act.
- Northern Ireland: Technical Booklet Part R and Disability Discrimination Act.
- England: Approved Document M.
- Wales : Approved Document M.
- Scotland: Technical Handbook, domestic and non-domestic: Safety.
- Republic of Ireland: Technical Guidance Document M (TGDM).

BUILDING REGULATIONS ON SECURITY

This is a list of the approved documents regarding security, and their equivalents throughout the UK and Ireland:

- England: Approved Document Q 2015 (Note that ADQ England is due for consultation later in 2023).
- Scotland: Technical Handbook, domestic and non-domestic: Security.
- Wales: Approved Document Q.

4. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE CONT'D

The Building Regulations/Approved Documents (maintaining standards as at time of planning permission) highlighted in Section 2 (Pages 4-6) are still applicable after handover of the building. But in addition, the following legislation is also applicable.

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

The RR(FS)O covers England and Wales and means that any person who has some level of control in premises must take reasonable steps to reduce the risk from fire and make sure people can safely escape if there is a fire.

The responsibility for fire risk assessment in all non-domestic buildings, including the common parts of flats and houses of multiple occupation, falls to the so-called 'responsible person'.

The responsible person must carry out a fire safety risk assessment and implement and maintain a fire management plan. Failure to comply with the RR(FS)O can place property and lives at risk and is likely to result in criminal prosecution.

EQUIVALENTS TO RR(FS)O IN THE UK

Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006

In Scotland these regulations do not have a "Responsible person" therefore the person in control of the premises has a duty to undertake a risk assessment in respect of fire. They must also ensure that routes to emergency exits from relevant premises and the exits themselves are kept free from obstruction at all times.

Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006

A small amount of prosecutions have occurred under NI Fire Regulations. And fines tend to be smaller - in the region of £2500.

NI Fire Rescue Service policy is to "work with community" rather than imposing larger fines. BUT all orders handed out by NIFRS are a matter of public record on their website.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 is the main piece of UK legislation that outlines the legal duties that employers have to protect the health, safety and welfare at work of all of their employees.

An employer's duty . . . extends [to] include in particular: So far as is reasonably practicable as regards any place of work under the employer's control, the maintenance of it in a condition that is safe . . . and the provision and maintenance of means of access to and egress from it that are safe and without . . . Risks. In addition, persons not employed, but on the premises, must not have their health or safety put at risk.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (Ireland) and Cap. 509 Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance (Hong Kong) are examples of international legislation which is of similar nature.

LEGAL STATUS OF STANDARDS

There is often discussion about whether standards can ever carry the same weight as legislation. Regulators appreciate that industry guidance helps duty-holders understand how to comply with the law. Designers need to be aware of legal requirements.

Standards are similar, in the sense that they are used to establish the technical detail needed when compiling relevant parts of legislation or regulation. Guidance, codes of practice and standards are not 'legal' obligations that must be met, but compliance with these documents will often be indicative that a duty-holder is compliant with the relevant legislation.

The need to be compliant with legal duties covers both civil and criminal legal duties. Civil cases aim to amend an unfair situation and are generally between two individuals or companies, while criminal cases deal with matters that affect the wider society and seek to punish the offender. While compliance with British Standards is not normally a legal obligation, there are two ways in which compliance can become mandatory:

- **Legislation:** The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) has made harmonised and designated standards mandatory for any products falling under the scope. It is currently illegal to offer a non-CE marked product for sale on the UK and European market if it is covered by a harmonised standard.
- **Contract:** A standard might be called up in a contract document. Some clients insist on products made on quality managed production lines under the ISO 9000 series of standards. Or that products must comply with BS 8300 or equivalent standards to meet accessibility requirements. Failure to comply with such requirements may be construed as a breach of contract and could have consequences if the non-standard product(s) gave rise to 'fitness for purpose' issues, or injury to users.

5. INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION



BUILDING CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2014 – IRELAND

The Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) came into force in 2014. A new Assigned Certifier role was introduced under BCAR who must be a Chartered Engineer, Registered Architect or a Registered Building Surveyor. Under the Regulations they are required to inspect, coordinate inspections and certify the building or works on completion.

Since introduction of BCAR, product specifications have been more stringent and more difficult to break.

UAE REGULATIONS

The UAE use a Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice which is derived by Dubai Civil Defence (DCD). It provides detail on:

- Standards for testing methodologies for fire doors include BS 476 22/EN 1634 and UL 10B/C as well as NFPA 252.
- Annual inspection of fire and escape doors.
- Door hardware and its impact on accessible routes: Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on accessible doors shall have a shape that is easy to grasp with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate (similar to BS 8300/ADM).

INTERNATIONAL FIRE DOOR TESTING CODES

International Building Code requires fire doors to be tested to the following US standards:

- UL 10C, Positive Fire Pressure Tests of Door Assemblies.
- NFPA 252, Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies.

Examples of countries and regions impacted include:

- USA.
- Middle East and North Africa.
- Caribbean Common Market.
- UN Buildings worldwide.

HONG KONG REGULATIONS

In Hong Kong, fire safety standards are mainly specified in the "Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), Building (Planning) Regulations" which states the requirements for fire safety.

Fire compartmentation is covered under the "Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Construction (Building Authority Hong Kong)". Both BS 476 and EN 1634 testing methodologies for fire doors are both equally acceptable in Hong Kong.

In addition, "Design manual: Barrier Free Access" gives detail on all accessibility requirements including sections on doors and door hardware.

6. MANAGING THE RISKS

MANAGING THE RISKS

Professional indemnity insurance protects against claims for loss or damage made by clients or third parties as a result of the impact of negligent services provided or negligent advice offered.

Compensation claims can be brought even if the service provided or advice was offered for free.

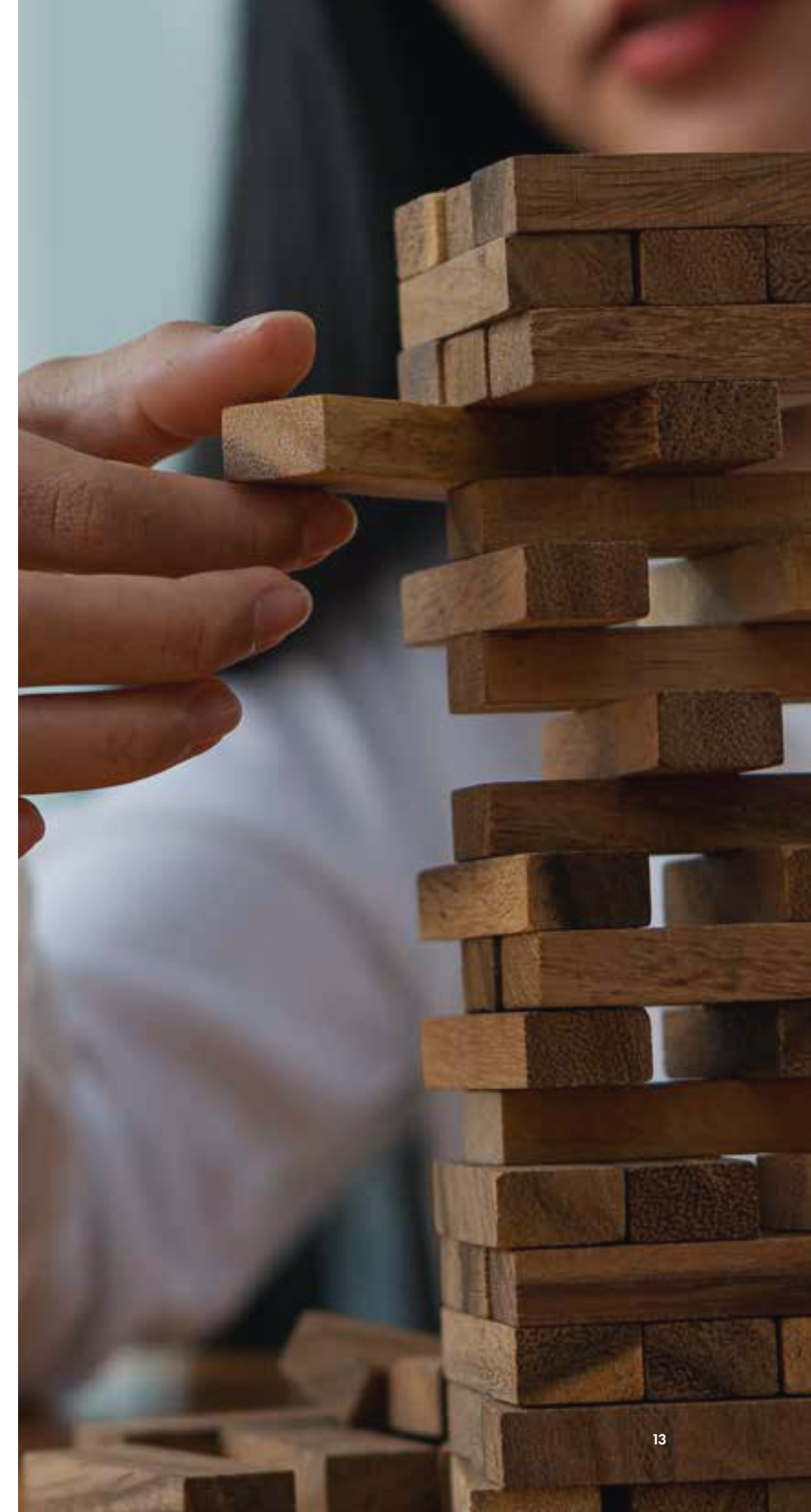
Note that if a claim is made against an individual after their policy has expired – even if the incident occurred while the policy was in place – they will not be covered for that claim.

Professional indemnity insurance can be bought directly from an insurer or from a specialist broker through the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA). The amount of cover needed as well as the price of the premium – will depend on the occupation.

IDENTIFYING RISKS

Here are some reasons why businesses should not fall foul of laws such as the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order:

- If breaches of the RR(FS)O in England and Wales cause a death the authorities can give serious consideration to pursuing corporate manslaughter
- Maximum sentence for the individual is a possible life imprisonment although guidelines suggest, depending upon how serious the negligence is, of between one to eighteen years imprisonment.
- Fines for the organisation are turnover dependent but range from £180,000 to £20 million for companies of largest turnover bracket. Fines in the UK for faulty fire doors reached almost £1 million in 2015 according to prior research by the UK Fire Door Inspection Scheme (FDIS). There were 45 published prosecutions relating to faulty or missing fire doors under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. In addition to the large number of fines given, many defendants were also handed down suspended prison sentences, typically three to eight months or longer.



6. MANAGING THE RISKS CONT'D

REGULATORY REFORM FIRE SAFETY ORDER

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- FDIS found 45 published prosecutions relating to faulty or missing fire doors under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.
- In addition to the large number of fines given, many defendants were also handed down suspended prison sentences, typically three to eight months or longer.
- Note also that Fire & Rescue Services have the power to restrict the use of a building or even close it. A number of cases which involved nurseries or care homes which house the most vulnerable have shown that these were put into special measures or closed down altogether.

POTENTIAL JAIL SENTENCES & FINES

If breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order in England and Wales cause a death the authorities can give serious consideration to pursuing corporate manslaughter. Corporate Manslaughter is the offence a corporation would face again when that body's gross negligence or omission has led to loss of life.

Maximum sentence for the individual is a possible life imprisonment although guidelines suggest, depending

upon how serious the negligence is, of between one to eighteen years imprisonment. Fines for the organisation are turnover dependent but range from £180,000 to £20 million for companies of largest turnover bracket.

RESPONSE TO THE GRENFELL TRAGEDY

As a response to the Grenfell tragedy the UK Government launched a public inquiry. The inquiry is not expected to publish its report until at least October 2023 and it could be early 2024.

The Metropolitan Police will await publication of the full inquiry report before presenting evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to consider if charges will be brought. Potential crimes include corporate manslaughter, gross negligence manslaughter, fraud and health and safety offences. Individuals such as Company Directors, Heads of Local Authorities could be prosecuted. This can include contractors, local authorities and construction product manufacturers.

NEW LOOK, OXFORD ST, LONDON - 2007

Here is an example where fire safety breaches of RR(FS)O cost one business over half a million pounds in fines and costs:

"High Street chain New Look was fined a record £400,000 for fire safety breaches after a devastating blaze on April 26, 2007 turned one of their shops into a potential death trap."
(Daily Mail: September 2009)



"The London Oxford Street store, which allegedly had inadequate emergency exits and poorly trained staff, was also ordered to pay more than £136,000 costs for what Judge Geoffrey Rivlin QC said could have been a 'disaster almost too awful to contemplate'."

New Look's appeal against its record £400,000 fine for fire safety breaches at its Oxford Street store was dismissed with the Court of Appeal saying the fine was not excessive in view of the company's "lamentable" performance of fire safety duties.

ADDRESS DOWNTOWN HOTEL, DUBAI

On New Year's Eve 2015, a huge fire broke out at the Address Downtown Hotel in Dubai. The fire was contained to the outside of the building and was reported to be caused by an electrical short circuit on a spotlight used to illuminate the building.

Thankfully, there were only minor injuries, as the fire broke out only in the external interface and the majority of the fire did not make it to the inside. A British Engineering firm are now facing legal action for its alleged role in the fire. The claim accuses them of 'negligence in the specification, testing and installation of the building cladding which is claimed to have exacerbated the fire, thereby increasing the damage to the building'

The size of the claim is unknown but is expected to be substantial as it relates to refurbishment costs and loss of income with the hotel reopening over two years after its closure.



7. FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE

In order to help with risk management we have put together the following ten top tips:

TOP TEN TIPS

1. Always keep up to date and specify product to relevant industry standards such as BS, EN and ISO.
2. Ensure the products specified for fire and escape doors are CE/UKCA marked where applicable.
3. Be careful with specifying product for a fire door that there is sufficient fire test evidence for the type of door it is intended to be fixed to.
4. Specify intumescent protection where needed, including for locks, hinges and concealed closers. Consult the fire door manufacturer or hardware manufacturer if in doubt.
5. Consult product manufacturers for technical assistance when needed, particularly in specialist applications such as anti-ligature, access control or door automation.
6. Be familiar with Approved Documents or equivalent publications re Building Regulations.
7. Read industry guides such as GAI Technical Briefings, Specifiers Guides and AIJ articles.
8. Ensure knowledge is kept up to date through CPD including training, seminars and webinars.
9. Never lower the specification to a level you are not comfortable with and know when to walk away from an order. Your reputation is lifelong and is always worth more than your next project.
10. **NEVER TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS WHEN SPECIFYING OR SUPPLYING PRODUCT** and always remember that fire doors and ironmongery are life safety critical products.



GAI Specifier's Resource Book

7.

FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE CONT'D

FURTHER INFORMATION

GAI website - Specifier's Resources

www.gai.org.uk/specifier

- GAI Specifiers Resource Book
- GAI Specifiers Guides
- Code of Practice: Hardware for Fire and Escape Doors (www.firecode.org.uk)

GAI website - User Resources

www.gai.org.uk/user

- GAI End User Guides
- Cylinder Installation Guide
- Door Closer Checklist



GAI End User Guides



The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) is the only trade body in the UK that represents the interests of the whole architectural ironmongery industry - architectural ironmongers, wholesalers and manufacturers.

Formed in 1961, the GAI is internationally recognised and respected as the authority on architectural hardware, building its reputation on three key pillars; education, technical support and community.

Its technical information service is the only specialist service of its kind, providing comprehensive advice on issues relating to the legislation, regulations and standards governing the use of architectural ironmongery and related hardware.

