

PAS 79:2005 Fire risk assessment. Guidance and a recommended methodology

# **Ground-breaking guidance** on fire risk assessment

Assess fire risks and record findings with a new nine-step approach





### **NEW!**

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### Ground-breaking guidance on fire risk assessment

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## PAS 79:2005 Fire risk assessment. Guidance and a recommended methodology is a

comprehensive Publicly Available Specification (PAS) that gives a new nine-step structured approach and corresponding documentation for conducting and recording significant findings of fire risk assessments in buildings and parts of buildings to which the Workplace Fire Precautions Legislation applies.

The intention of PAS 79 is to enable employers, and those acting on their behalf, to carry out the 'suitable and sufficient' fire risk assessment required by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, so as to enable the employer to satisfy the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations.

PAS 79 provides those who carry out fire risk assessments with a logical and structured approach to carrying out fire risk assessments and to record the significant findings.

Fire risk assessments carried out according to PAS 79 address the safety of all occupants of buildings, including employees, visitors, guests, contractors and members of the public.

Accordingly, the fire risk assessments carried out to PAS 79 are likely to provide a good basis for the Responsible Person charged with ensuring adequate fire precautions in buildings when UK government makes major changes to fire safety legislation in England and Wales by means of a new Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. One significant change will be that fire authorities will no longer issue fire certificates for premises. Responsibility for fire safety of building occupants will lie with the Responsible Person.

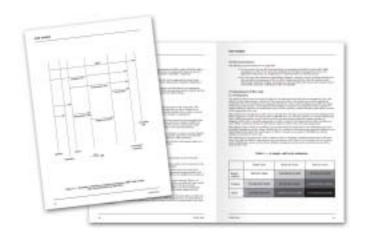
#### How can PAS 79 help you?

#### PAS 79 can:

- Provide organizations and their advisers with a suggested methodology for meeting their legislative responsibilities to undertake fire risk assessments
- Promote better understanding of fire risks and fire safety
- Encourage the adoption of a common understanding, a common language and a common system for carrying out fire risk assessments
- Provide an understanding of the principles and scope of fire risk assessments
- Establish a common basis for documentation of fire risk assessments
- Set a benchmark for a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment

#### **Drafted and prepared by leading experts**

Drafted for BSI by leading fire consultants C.S. Todd & Associates Ltd with the support and encouragement of the Northern Ireland Fire Safety Panel and the Institution of Fire Engineers. Although privately drafted, this document underwent extensive consultation with key stakeholders including major users and employers, relevant trade associations, property managers, professional bodies, enforcing authorities and fire consultants.





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Figure 1 Schematic of fire risk assessment process

Figure 2 Schematic example of appropriate education, training and experience of fire risk assessors

Figure 3 Example of timeline comparison between ASET and escape time (reproduced from BS 7974)

Table A.1 Simple risk level estimator

Table B.1 Fire hazards, elimination or control measures and relevant codes of practice

Table C.1 Key factors and specific issues to consider in means of escape

#### Who should use PAS 79?

- Fire Safety Engineers
- Fire Prevention Officers
- Health and Safety Officers
- Property Managers
- Architects
- Specifiers
- Consultants
- Facilities Managers

- Building Control Officers
- Building Service Engineers
- Fire Protection Companies
- Fire Authorities
- Local Authorities
- Risk Managers
- Insurers

# PAS 79:2005 Fire risk assessment. Guidance and a recommended methodology

Format: **Paperback** (and **CD** containing relevant forms and checklists to document a fire risk assessment)

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#### **Important notes about PAS 79:2005**

It is not applicable in the case of domestic dwellings. It is not intended as a guide to fire safety for non-specialists. It does not address the safety of fire-fighters or to those outside of the building under assessment, in the event of a fire in the building. It does not address protection of property (building and contents), or address protection of a business, process or activity against interruption. Buildings with special hazards, with potential high risk to life (e.g. chemical or nuclear hazards) will require consideration of additional factors associated with these hazards. During its development, PAS 79 was known as PAS 999.

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