



Australia Branch

The Institution of Fire Engineers Australia Branch Comments on the Draft NSW Fire Safety Regulation

The Institution of Fire Engineers Australia Branch (IFE) is a not for profit, professional association for fire professionals working across all aspects of the fire industry.

The IFE has active members working in the fire safety and fire engineering fields in New South Wales.

Involvement of ‘competent fire safety practitioners’

The IFE supports the introduction of a ‘competent fire safety practitioner’. The IFE believes the accreditation of these people to a minimum standard will ensure designers; maintenance and installation practitioners are accountable for the professional services they provide.

The IFE, through its registration with the Engineering Council UK (ECUK), accredits and registers professional engineers on the National Fire Engineers Register (NFER). The ECUK currently has Chartered Engineers, Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians grades registered on the NFER.

Registration on the NFER requires accredited engineers to abide by the IFE and ECUK code of Conduct, the maintenance of sufficient indemnity insurance and abide by imposed conditions as they arise from time to time.

The IFE believes the minimum grade of registration that meets the ‘competent fire safety practitioner’ is Engineering Technician.

The IFE Australia Branch would like to be notified when public consultation commences on the draft accreditation framework.

Submission of fire safety system plans and specifications and their retention on site

The IFE supports the requirement for building plans and specifications to be submitted and recorded during the design and construction process for Alternative Solutions.

The plans and specifications will be required for the ‘competent fire safety practitioner’ to endorse during and when finalising construction documentation.

New critical stage inspections

The IFE supports the introduction of Critical Stage Inspections of passive fire systems to ensure correct construction for compartmentation.

The IFE urges caution when determining percentages of passive fire systems to be inspected as a reasonably representative sample is required. Too small a percentage will increase the risk of this measure being ineffective.

Additional checks by Fire and Rescue NSW

The IFE supports the introduction of FRNSW discretionary inspections of Class 2-3 buildings to exercise its functions with regard to installed fire safety measures and bounding construction.

The discretionary nature of the additional checks by FRNSW should complement the critical stage inspections.

Assessment by competent fire safety practitioners before issue of fire safety certificate and standardised certificates

The IFE supports the need for individual fire safety measures to be properly assessed and fire safety certificates to be issued by a 'competent fire safety practitioner'.

The IFE supports the need for 'competent fire safety practitioners' to conduct assessments to provide both supplementary and annual fire safety statements.

The IFE offers in principle support for the adoption of standardised fire safety certificates and annual fire safety statement.

As previously stated the IFE believes the minimum standard for recognition as a competent fire safety practitioner to be a correctly registered fire safety Engineering Technician.

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