

Glossary of terms and acronyms

1. **Access room** a room through which the only escape route from an inner room passes
2. **Alternative escape route** escape routes sufficiently separated by either direction and space, or by fire-resisting construction to ensure that one is still available irrespective of the location of a fire.
3. **Automatic fire-detection system** a means of automatically detecting the products of a fire and sending a signal to a fire warning system.
4. **Dangerous substance** 1. A substance which because of its physico-chemical or chemical properties and the way it is used or is present at the workplace creates a risk. 2. A substance subject to the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations 2002 (DSEAR).
5. **Dead end** area from which escape is possible in one direction only.
6. **Direct distance** the shortest distance from any point within the floor area to the nearest storey exit, or fire-resisting route, ignoring walls, partitions and fixings.
7. **Emergency escape lighting** lighting provided to illuminate escape routes that will function if the normal lighting fails.
8. **Escape route** route forming that part of the means of escape from any point in the premises to a final exit.
9. **False alarm** a fire signal, usually from a fire warning system, resulting from a cause other than fire.
10. **Final exit** an exit from a building where people can continue to disperse in safety and where they are no longer at risk from fire and/or smoke.
11. **Fire compartment** a building, or part of a building, constructed to prevent the spread of fire to or from another part of the same building or an adjoining building.
12. **Fire door** a door or shutter, together with its frame and furniture, provided for the passage of people, air or goods which, when closed, is intended to restrict the passage of fire and/or smoke to a predictable level of performance.
13. **Fire-resistance** the ability of a component or construction of a building to satisfy, for a stated period of time, some or all of the appropriate criteria of relevant standards. (Generally described as 30 minutes fire resisting or 60 minutes fire-resisting.)
14. **Fire stopping** a seal provided to close an imperfection of fit or design tolerance between elements or components, to restrict the passage of fire and smoke.
15. **Inner room** a room from which escape is possible only by passing through another room (the access room).
16. **Means of escape** route(s) provided to ensure safe egress from premises or other locations to a place of total safety.
16. **Place of reasonable safety** a place within a building or structure where, for a limited period of time, people will
or have some protection from the effects of fire and smoke. This place, usually a corridor
Place of relative safety or stairway, will normally have a minimum of 30 minutes fire resistance and allow people to continue their escape to a place of total safety.
17. **Place of total safety** a place, away from the premises, in which people are at no immediate risk from the effects of a fire.
18. **Protected stairway** a stairway which is adequately protected from the rest of the building by fire-resisting construction.
19. **Protected route** an escape route which is adequately protected from the rest of the building by fire-resisting construction.

20. **Refuge** a place of reasonable safety in which a disabled person and others who may need assistance may rest or wait for assistance before reaching a place of total safety. It should lead directly to a fire-resisting escape route.
21. **Self-closing device** a device that is capable of closing the door from any angle and against any latch fitted to the door.
22. **Significant finding** a feature of the premises, from which the fire hazards and persons at risk are identified.
The actions you have taken or will take to remove or reduce the chance of a fire occurring or the spread of fire and smoke.
The actions people need to take in case of fire.
The necessary information, instruction and training needed and how it will be given.
23. **Smoke alarm** device containing within one housing all the components, except possibly the energy source, for detecting smoke and giving an audible alarm.
24. **Staged fire alarm** a fire warning which can be given in two or more stages for different purposes within a given area (i.e. notifying staff, stand by to evacuate, full evacuation).
25. **Storey exit** a final exit or a doorway giving direct access into a protected stairway, fire fighting lobby, or external escape route
26. **Travel distance** the actual distance to be travelled by a person from any point within the floor area to the nearest storey exit or final exit, having regard to the layout of walls, partitions and fixings.
27. **Vision panel** a transparent panel in a wall or door of an inner room enabling the occupant to become aware of a fire in the access area during the early stages.