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.

17. **Place of reasonable safety** or **Place of relative safety** a place within a building or structure where, for a limited period of time, people will have some protection from the effects of fire and smoke. This place, usually a corridor 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.

18. **Place of total safety** a place, away from the premises, in which people are at no immediate risk from the effects of a fire.

19. **Protected stairway** a stairway which is adequately protected from the rest of the building by fire-resisting construction.

20. **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-resistant 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.