Firecode for the Future

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Proposed Firecode Structure

Whole suite of Firecode Guidance under review

HTM 05-01 Management of Healthcare Fire Safety
HTM 05-02A Functional Requirements
HTM 05-02B Fire Engineering (to be developed)
HTM 05-03 Operational Requirements

The Fire Safety Order ‘Guide to Fire Safety in Healthcare Premises’ is not part of the above suite of Firecode documents – however it will be endorsed by the Department of Health.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Guidance in Support of Functional Requirements

- Replaces HTM81, 85 (& Nucleus Fire Precautions)
- In preparation for almost 2 years
- Working on 3rd major redraft of guidance (Final consultation comments reviewed 3rd May)
- Taken HTM 81 as template and added from previous 2 drafts
- Changed focus to all ‘healthcare buildings’ rather than just hospitals (except very small GP premises, dentists, etc)
- Majority of elements remain hospital specific
- Application of this document is intended to coincide with Approved Document B in April 2007.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Status of Guidance

• Code of Practice which recognises the problems specific to healthcare

• The measures in this document satisfy all the requirements of Approved Document B: Fire Safety Volume 2 (Buildings other than Dwellings) of the Building Regulations 2000

• The Minister of State has mandated compliance with the Department of Health Fire Safety Policy set out in HTM 05-01 which references the use of Firecode (England).
HTM 05-02: Part A
Functional Requirements

• Written in a similar format to the building regulations specifying ‘functional requirements’ although much of the text is extracted from the existing HTM81.

  FR1  Means of Warning & Escape
  FR2  Internal Fire Spread (Linings)
  FR3  Internal Fire Spread (Construction)
  FR4  External Fire Spread
  FR5  Access & Facilities for the Fire & Rescue Service

• Compliance with these Functional Requirements is a Statutory Duty.
Whilst ‘requirements’ have been removed (HTM81), the text contained in shaded boxes denote prescriptive provisions that should be applied in order to enhance patient safety:

- Progressive Horizontal Evacuation
- Separation of patient & non-patient departments
- Size & number of compartments
- Exits from compartments
- Sub-compartmentation
- Travel distance / single direction of escape
- (Hospital streets).
Specific considerations based on patient categories depending on their mobility and/or dependency

**Independent (including patients)** - Patients with unimpaired mobility who are able to physically leave the premises without staff assistance or they may experience some mobility impairment and rely on another person to offer minimal assistance.

**Normal Dependency** - All patients except those classed as ‘independent’ or ‘very high dependency’.

**Very High Dependency** - Those whose clinical treatment and/or condition creates a high dependency on staff. Eg intensive care/therapy units, operating theatres and those where evacuation would prove potentially life threatening.
Current guidance does not address Primary Care Premises. New guidance aims to address this gap. Whilst ADB might be appropriate in some cases, it might not go far enough.

- GP Premises
- Dentists
- Walk-in Centres
- Treatment Centres
- Primary Care Resource Centres

What extent of treatment is delivered in the building?
Is escape dependent on staff?
Invasive procedures – e.g. renal dialysis.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Water Supplies for Fire Fighting

• Current guidance does not include water for fire fighting

• Where no piped water supply is available (or there is inadequate pressure & flow in the water main) one of the following should be provided:
  
  • A charged static water tank of minimum 45,000 litre capacity, or
  • An open water supply (spring, river, canal or pond) with suitable access capable of providing or storing at least 45,000 litres, or
  • Any other means for providing a water supply which the fire and rescue authority deems appropriate.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Sprinklers

• HTM 05-02A does not stipulate that sprinklers or fire suppression must be installed (except in certain commercial enterprises)

• Provision of sprinklers must be considered by the design team and the final decision justified and recorded in the Fire Strategy

• There are advantages to be gained and ‘trade offs’ from installing sprinklers (eg subject to risk assessment - hazard rooms may not need enclosing in 30min FR)

• It is not envisaged that they be provided for smaller, less complex premises.
Insulating Core Panels

- Appendix F refers to insulating core panels used for external cladding & internal structures
  - Fire behaviour of the core materials and fixing systems
  - Design recommendations
  - Specify panel core materials
- Refers to a publication by the ‘International Association of Cold Storage Contractors’ for further information.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Provision of Information

• Appendix G refers to the ‘Fire Strategy’ and the provision of information (including fire drawings)
• For clarity the guidance is given in terms of ‘simple’ & ‘complex’ buildings, although it is recognised that the extent of information required will vary from building to building

• **Simple buildings** - Basic information on the location of fire protection measures may be all that is necessary with as built plans

• **Complex buildings** - a more detailed record of the fire safety strategy and procedures for operating and maintaining any fire protection measures in the building will be necessary.
HTM 05-02: Part A
Other Principle Changes

• Nucleus schemes referenced

• Fire resisting glazing

• Escape lifts – No specific requirement to provide although references consideration and recognises the potential benefits

• European equivalent test standards referenced.
• Guidance to be developed
• Lay persons guide to fire engineering in healthcare premises
  • What is fire engineering?
  • What are the benefits to healthcare?
  • What are the disadvantages for healthcare?
  • What questions to ask a fire engineer?
• Anticipated production 2006/07.
# HTM 05-03

## Operational Requirements

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HTM 05-03 Part A  
General Fire Precautions

- Replaces HTM 83
- Compliments the information contained in P&P
- Hazards in hospitals and associated precautions
- Fire prevention, fire fighting equipment, training and responding to fire incidents etc
- Due for a major overhaul to be completed during 2006/7
HTM 05-03 Part B
Fire Detection & Alarm Systems

• Replaces HTM 82

• This has been reviewed and marginally changed, more in line with functional guidance

• Reflects BS5839:1 2002(amd)

• Due for release 2006/7
HTM 05-03 Part C
Textiles & Furniture

• Replaces HTM 87
• This has been reviewed and changed
• Consider European testing standards for flammability
• Due for release 2006/7
HTM 05-03 Part D
Commercial Enterprises

- Replaces FPN 5
- First published in 1992
- Provides technical and managerial guidance to ensure commercial enterprises do not subvert the fire safety precautions for the healthcare environment
- Due for review?
HTM 05-03 Part E
Escape Bed Lifts

- Replaces FPN 3
- Published in 1987
- Reviewed to reflect current thinking on use of lifts
- Addresses management of lifts, communications etc
- Due for release 2006/7
Arson continues to be a major cause of fires

23% of hospital fires are deliberate (2004 stats)

Minor changes expected, to be completed during 2006/7
HTM 05-03 Part G
Laboratories

- Replaces FPN 10
- No change to content
- Re-badged DH/WAG
HTM 05-03 Part H
Reducing Unwanted Fire Signals

• Replaces FPN 11
• UwFS continue to be a major problem
• No change to content
• Re-badged DH/WAG
HTM 05-03 Part I
NHS Fire Statistics

• Replaces FPN 9

• Not a regularly updated document

• Last published to show 1994/5 figures

• Due for review?
HTMs & FPNs being withdrawn

HTM 86  Fire Risk Assessment in Hospitals
        Fire Risk Assessment in Nucleus Hospitals

HTM 88  Fire Safety in Healthcare Premises: - guide to fire
        precautions in NHS housing in the community for
        mentally handicapped (mentally ill) people

FPN 4   Hospital Main Kitchens

FPN 7   Fire Precautions in Patient Hotels

FPN 8   Atria (already withdrawn)
Complete Suite of New Documents

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HTM 05-03 Operational Requirements
  Part ‘A’ General Fire Precautions
  Part ‘B’ Fire Detection & Alarm Systems
  Part ‘C’ Textiles & Furnishings
  Part ‘D’ Commercial Enterprises
  Part ‘E’ Escape Bed Lifts
  Part ‘F’ Arson
  Part ‘G’ Laboratories
  Part ‘H’ Reducing UwFS
  Part ‘I’ NHS Fire Statistics (94 – 05)