

# Fire Safety Mark

A Proposal to Increase Visibility of Fire Safety in Buildings

Version 5, July 2020

“I think this is a brilliant idea”

Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter FRS OBE  
Chair, Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication

# Launch Event

- The Launch Event for the Fire Mark will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, to coincide with Tall Building Fire Safety Conference
- There will be an information presentation and a Q&A session
- If you would like to attend please email me:  
[russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com](mailto:russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com)

# Introduction

- Hello, my name is Russ Timpson and I have been involved in Fire Safety for most of my working career as a firefighter, fire safety manager and fire engineer
- Over this time I have learnt a great deal about fire, people and the devastating impacts that fire can cause
- The Grenfell Tower fire tragedy should make us stop and think. The sacrifice of so many people should lead to a change in the way we see fire safety in buildings

# The Need for Disruption

- When a serious fire happens and people die, there is a routine process of outcry, mourning, investigation, recommendations and return to normality
- I believe that this process needs to be disrupted, and a new route taken to reduce the risk of fire in buildings
- Established processes take too long, involve people with vested interests and rely on the fire safety establishment to correct itself

# Feedback so far . . .

- Beware unintended consequences of this scheme
- Does a high score indicate compliance with known standards?
- Details of people/systems may change frequently
- It seems too generic, how can you compare a hospital with a school
- Would a low score affect insurance cover?
- Who would oversee and monitor?
- Can you include a QTR Code?
- How do you stop fakes?

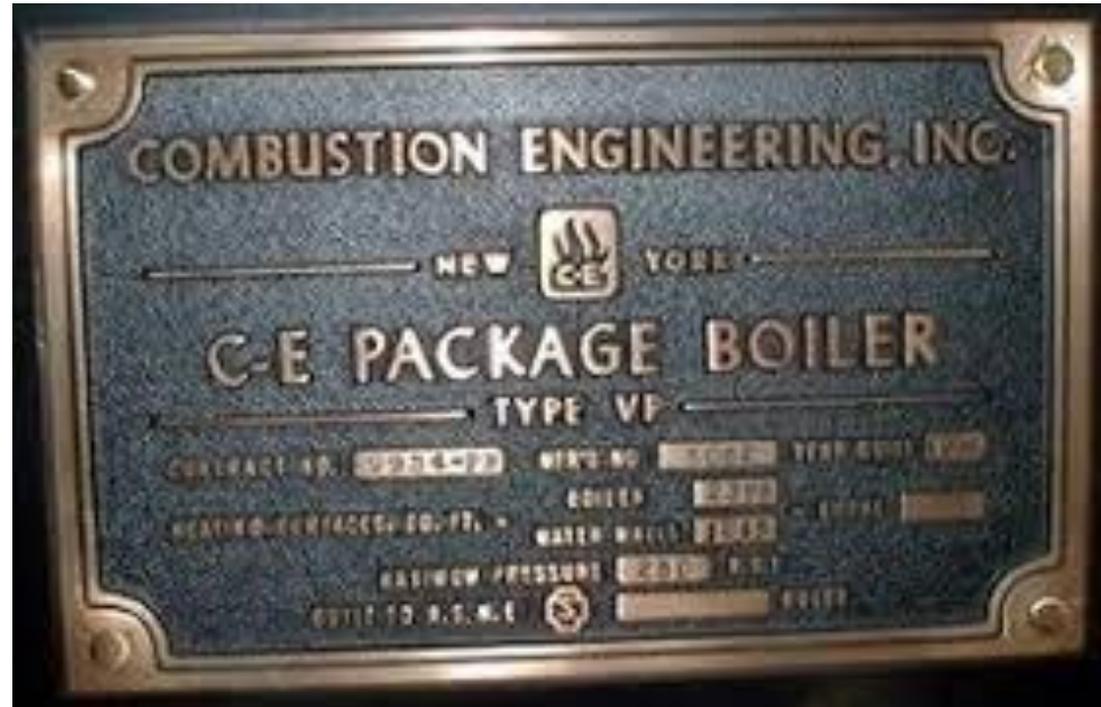
# The Fire Mark

- Following the great fire of London, buildings with insurance policies for fire, were identified with a very visible mark on the outside of the buildings
- These fire marks can be found on many buildings and the concept was widely adopted



# The Boiler Plate

- Boiler Plates are a robust signing system to show critical information about a pressure system
- They clearly denote the details of the equipment and who manufactured it



# The Idea – New Fire Mark

- My idea is to reinvent the Fire Mark as a easily accessible indication of the fire safety within a building
- The Fire Mark would act as the fire safety boiler plate for the building
- The Fire Mark would indicate in a very accessible way, the key fire safety information about the building for occupants and consumers
- The scheme would be completely voluntary and provide clear consumer choice with regard to fire safety

# Easily Accessible Indicators - Example

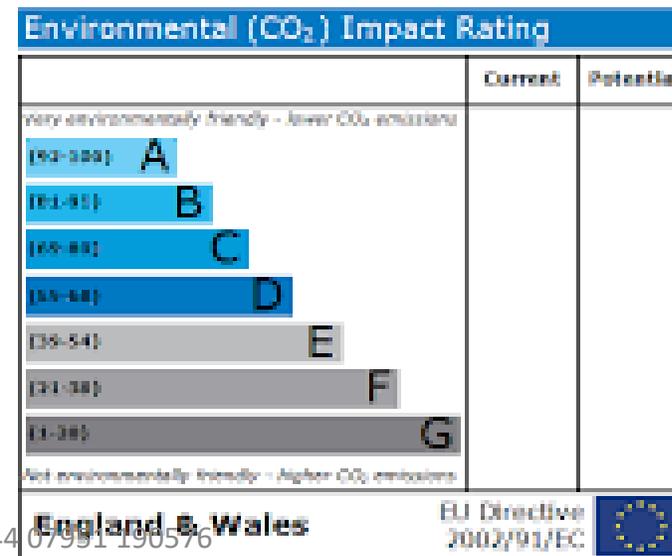
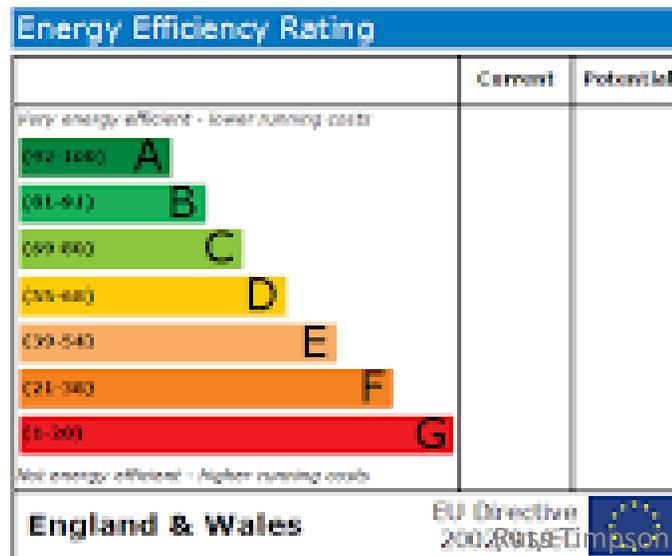
- The Beaufort Scale is a widely recognised indicator of the state of the weather and wind at sea
- For many years it has enabled people to make judgements about the scale of the risk of putting to sea

Beaufort Wind Scale

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Calm	Light Air	Light Breeze	Gentle Breeze	Moderate Breeze	Fresh Breeze	Strong Breeze	Near Gale	Gale	Strong Gale	Storm	Violent Storm	Hurricane Force
Light Winds						Advisory-force		Gale-force		Storm-force		Hurricane-force
<1 mph	1–3 mph	4–7 mph	8–12 mph	13–18 mph	18–24 mph	25–31 mph	31–38 mph	39–46 mph	47–54 mph	55–63 mph	64–72 mph	≥73 mph
<1 knot	1–3 knots	4–6 knots	7–10 knots	11–16 knots	17–21 knots	22–27 knots	28–33 knots	34–40 knots	41–47 knots	48–55 knots	56–63 knots	≥63 knots
<0.3 m/s	0.3–1.5 m/s	1.6–3.3 m/s	3.4–5.5 m/s	5.5–7.9 m/s	8.0–10.7 m/s	10.8–13.8 m/s	13.9–17.1 m/s	17.2–20.7 m/s	20.8–24.4 m/s	24.5–28.4 m/s	28.5–32.6 m/s	≥32.7 m/s

# Easily Accessible Indicators - Example

- The Energy Efficiency Rating is a widely recognised indicator of the environmental character of buildings, materials and equipment
- The rating system has helped consumers make informed choices



# Easily Accessible Indicators - Example

- The Food Hygiene Rating is a widely recognised indicator of the cleanliness and food safety management of catering establishments
- The rating system has helped consumers make informed choices



# The New Fire Mark

- The new Fire Mark would be displayed in a publicly available area of the building, i.e. reception
- It must be easily understood by a members of the public

Company / Building LOGO

Scope: The building, the address  
Building Fire Safety Person: (Name)  
Contact details:

Fire Mark Assessed by: (Name/Com)  
Competency Level: (Rating)  
Contact details:

If you have questions or would like more fire safety information about this building contact:  
Name:  
Tel:  
Email:

**BUILDING FIRE SAFETY MARK**

1 2 3 4 5

**GOOD**

Fire Safety Tactic	Score
Prevention	4
Detection and Alarm	4
Escape	5
Containment	4
Firefighting	3
Resilience	4

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# The New Fire Mark

- Year of Assessment
- Fire Mark Rating
- Fire Safety Tactic Scores
- Scope of Assessment
- Competency of Assessor
- Building Fire Safety Person
- Where to get more information
- QR Code

Company / Building LOGO

Scope: The building, the address  
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# The Idea – Abiding Principles

- The Fire Mark scheme is completely voluntary for building owners
- It must be easily verifiable, i.e. contacts of people detailed on the Fire Mark must be correct and in working order
- It is designed to inform occupants with regard to fire safety, so should be displayed within the building, relevant websites, etc
- People making the Fire Mark Assessment must have proportionate competency to the building in question

# Fire Mark – Rating System

- Utilises the ‘Fire Triangle’ as a visual indicator of fire safety standards, similar to star ratings for building comfort and facilities, i.e. hotels
- Triangle ratings is based on a assessment which comprises five contributing aspects of fire safety:
  1. Prevention – everything that is done to prevent fires
  2. Detection and Alarm – facilities for letting occupants know that a fire has started
  3. Escape – facilities that are provided to ensure escape from fire is possible
  4. Containment – keeping the fire contained as far as possible
  5. Firefighting – providing facilities so that firefighters can do the best job possible
  6. Resilience – taking steps to ensure the building can withstand fire crisis events

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores - Prevention

Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)	Score
Annual Fire Safety Audit by competent person	5
All relevant people in date for relevant fire safety training	4
Daily, weekly, Monthly Checks with records	3
Completed Fire Risk Assessment, no outstanding actions	2
Document Detailing Fire Safety Promises (aka Policy)	1

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores – Detection and Alarm

<b>Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)</b>	<b>Score</b>
Cause and Effect summary available and systems tested	5
System maintained in accordance with manufacturers requirements	4
Weekly test of system with audibility records	3
Automatic Fire Detection System	2
Means of raising the Alarm	1

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores – Escape

Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)	Score
Ability to switch evacuation strategies depending on fire scenario, i.e. stay put to simultaneous. Including invacuation.	5
Control, venting and containment of smoke produced by fire has been considered for means of escape	4
PEEPS and GEEPS completed for occupants who need assistance to escape	3
Escape wayfinding signage fitted	2
Suitable Means of Escape routes available (refer to Fire Risk Assessment)	1

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores – Containment

Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)	Score
Building fully sprinklered	5
Policy and process for 'making good' penetrations in fire barriers by competent contractors	4
All fire barriers (walls, floors, riser shafts) inspected annually	3
Fire doors and dampers inspected and checked annually	2
Simple line diagram showing all fire walls, floors, risers, dampers, fire doors and other fire resisting elements of structure available	1

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores – Firefighting

Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)	Score
Annual Building Firefighting liaison visit undertaken with training if possible	5
Local water hydrants to the building tested and identified with signage	4
Details of building occupants including those with disabilities and mobility impairments readily available	3
Firefighting facilities checked and tested (i.e. dry risers, firefighting lifts, etc)	2
Premises Information Pack (plans, information, etc) – available on site for responding firefighters	1

# Fire Safety Tactic Scores – Resilience

Deliverable (must be complete to get ascending score)	Score
Business Continuity Plan (including prolonged 'denial of return' to building planning post fire)	5
Salvage plan (access to equipment and services to mitigate the effects of fire and water post fire)	4
Crisis Response Process – Following 'Actions in Event of Fire'	3
Degraded fire system plan (what to do if fire detection system does not work)	2
Actions in the Event of Fire Instructions for staff and occupants	1

# Fire Mark Assessor Competency Levels

1. Level 1 Fire Mark Assessor – Fire Safety Professional with appropriate fire safety qualifications, and member of a recognised professional body with robust ongoing quality checks
2. Level 2 Fire Mark Assessor – Safety Professional or related profession with a relevant vocational fire safety qualification
3. Level 3 Fire Mark Assessor – Persons tasked with assessing Fire Mark who have access to suitable guidance and information, but no professional background in fire safety

# What you can do to help

1. Consider the Fire Safety Mark idea and feedback any comments, improvements, risks (email below)
2. If you agree that the Fire Safety Mark is a good idea, then become a signatory supporter via email:  
[russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com](mailto:russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com)

# Supporters

Name	Profile
Justin Francis	Firefighter - Australia
Emma Dent-Coad	MP
David Boone	Firefighter - Canada
Paul Coster	Risk Director- UK
Robin Eddington	Senior Safety Consultant - UK
Michael Clifford	Fire Engineer - NZ
Rob Cook	Senior Fire Professional - UK
Justice4Grenfell	Campaign Group - UK
Andrew Lynch	Fire Media Editor - UK
Peter Fisher	Director Fire - UK
Stuart Hodgkinson	Academic - UK

# Supporters

Name	Profile
Roger Miller	Fire & Safety Officer - UK
Bernie Cosh	Fire Engineer - UK
Matt Hodges-Long	Software Developer - UK
Tim Bull	Property Manager - UK
Mark Jones	Firefighter - UK
Andrew Cheshire	Construction Fire Safety - UK
Geoff Wilkinson	Building Control - UK
Aston Bowles	Fire Detection - UK
Dave Etheridge	Ex Fire Chief - UK
Carl Bessier	Construction Fire Safety - UK
Michael Button	Security Manager - UK

# Supporters

Name	Profile
Julia Cotton	H&S Professional - UK
Ted O'Brien	Ex Firefighter - UK
Patience Dorgu-Ajayi	Safety Professional - Nigeria
John Scott	Property Manager - UK
Brent Brooks	Firefighter - Canada
Jim Senior	Construction Director - UK
Christos Papanikolas	Firefighter - Cyprus
Jason Gallehawk	Senior Facilities Manager - UK
Wilson wai shun kwok	Firefighter – Hong Kong
Andrew Shipley	Equality advisor - UK
Emily Hough	Media Editor - UK

# Supporters

Name	Profile
Paula Seemann	Fire Risk Assessor - UK
Prof Sir David Spiegelhalter	Academic - UK
Barry Palmer	Safety & Security Manager - UK
Richard Buckley	Asst Director London Council - UK
Matt Clare	Building Surveyor - UK
Peter Sells	Firefighting Equip Manufacturer - Canada
Bill Stewart	Ex Fire Chief - Canada