



British Safety Council Awards  
Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment

2008 Specification  
(for Assessments submitted in 2008)

Version 1

Accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)  
at Level 2 in the National Qualifications Framework

(Qualification Accreditation Number 100/6056/X)

## **Publishing Policy for Specifications**

Specifications are published on 1 August each year to allow registered course providers and candidates adequate time to prepare for examinations from 1 January the following year.

For all BSC Awards specifications the electronic version on the BSC Awards website is definitive in the case of any difference between it and a previously printed version.

The electronic version on the website is updated if any significant changes are made during the lifetime of the specification. Registered course providers are notified of such changes.

All significant changes to a specification are side barred, irrespective of whether they are changes to the subject content, the scheme of assessment or the administrative arrangements. The exceptions are presentational changes and correction of typographical errors. Side bars are used to indicate any changes from the previous version only; side bars in Version 3 indicate changes from Version 2, but not changes from Version 1.

**Course providers and candidates should check that this printed version of the specification is the latest version by visiting [www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications)**

## **Acknowledgements**

This specification has been developed by British Safety Council Awards in consultation with professional bodies, standard setting bodies, enforcement bodies, employers and other interested parties. British Safety Council Awards recognises and values all those who contribute their time and expertise to the development of its specifications.

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## **British Safety Council Awards**

British Safety Council Awards (BSC Awards) is committed to promoting higher standards of health and safety in the workplace through the provision of relevant qualifications that meet the needs of learners and employers at all levels and across all sectors.

BSC Awards' work is central to the government's national skills strategy – *21st Century Skills, Realising Our Potential* – which aims to ensure that individual employees have the skills and qualifications needed to be both employable and personally fulfilled.

BSC Awards is recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as an official awarding body. As such, it has met and must adhere to a wide range of quality assurance criteria so that rigour and consistency in the awarding of qualifications is maintained. BSC Awards' assessment procedures comply with best practice in the examinations industry and are monitored by the regulator.

BSC Awards is the only UK awarding body to offer a complete suite of health and safety qualifications from Entry Level to Level 6 in the National Qualifications Framework:

- BSC Awards Entry Level Award in Workplace Hazard Awareness (Entry 3)
- BSC Awards Level 1 Certificate in Health and Safety at Work
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Supervising Staff Safely
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Risk Assessment
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in DSE Risk Assessment
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment
- BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Manual Handling Risk Assessment
- BSC Awards Level 3 Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health
- BSC Awards Level 6 Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health

Specification development is guided by steering committees comprising representatives from regulatory authorities, professional bodies, standard setting bodies, enforcement bodies, employers and trade unions. Through focus groups, BSC Awards further consults with employers and registered course providers. Specifications are then developed with the help of independent chartered safety and health practitioners.

BSC Awards' qualifications are overseen by a Qualifications Quality Assurance Committee comprising independent professionals from health and safety, and education.

## **The Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment**

Each year people die or are seriously injured as a result of fires at work. In addition to the tragic loss of life and personal suffering experienced by family and friends, fire costs UK businesses millions of pounds, from damage to property, loss of business, fines, compensation claims and increased insurance premiums. It can be the end for small businesses.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the responsibility for fire risk assessment in any workplace lies with 'the responsible person'. No longer is it the Fire Service's duty to make sure that the workplace is safe. That duty lies with 'the responsible person' and they will be held accountable under the new legislation.

The BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment aims to provide 'the responsible person' with knowledge and understanding of the fire risk assessment process and the skills required to undertake a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment.

The specification is based on the Health and Safety Executive's guidance on fire risk assessment and the relevant national occupational standards, and has been accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) at Level 2 in the National Qualifications Framework.

Assessment is fit for purpose. The workplace-based fire risk assessment task relates directly to the candidate's workplace and tests the application of learning in a practical context.

While the BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment is a stand-alone qualification, it allows for lateral progression to other BSC Awards Level 2 qualifications covering specific risk assessments in COSHH, DSE and Manual Handling, and vertical progression to the BSC Awards Level 3 Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health.

## **Entry Requirements**

There are no formal entry requirements for the BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment. However, it is expected that candidates will have a level of literacy and numeracy adequate to cope with the assessment.

It is recommended that candidates first complete a BSC Awards Level 1 Certificate in Health and Safety at Work, which provides a solid grounding in basic health and safety knowledge and a useful springboard for study leading to the Level 2 Certificate.

Candidates may enter direct with BSC Awards or be entered by their company.

## **Arrangements for Learning**

Candidates may either self-study or undertake a programme of study with a course provider registered with BSC Awards.

## **Language of Assessment**

The assessment task is presented in English and candidates are expected to respond in English.

Candidates for whom English is a second language are advised that their reading and writing skills should be equivalent to at least Level 4 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Test for Non-Native Speakers of English. Information on this language testing service is available on the IELTS website ([www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)).

## Subject Content

The learning outcomes state the abilities candidates need to demonstrate, and should be read in the context: "On completion of the qualification, candidates should be able to . . ."

Bullet points under each learning outcome indicate the breadth and/or depth of knowledge expected of candidates at this level. The bullet points are indicative, rather than exhaustive.

*On completion of the qualification, candidates should be able to . . .*

- 1.1 explain the reasons for conducting suitable and sufficient fire risk assessments
  - moral, legal, economic
- 1.2 outline the principles of the fire triangle and fire prevention
  - fuel, ignition, oxygen
  - fire propagation
- 1.3 outline main causes of fire and the significance of the common causes in different occupancies
  - electrical, naked flames, smoking materials, arson
- 1.4 outline the main legislation relating to fire risk assessment
  - Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
  - duty for responsible person to assess risks
  - duty to take general fire precautions
- 1.5 determine the responsible person for fire safety within various premises
  - employer, person in control of premises
- 1.6 know the risk assessment approach as it applies to fire safety
  - HSE's Five Steps to Risk Assessment
- 1.7 outline the competencies required of fire risk assessors
  - knowledge, skills, experience
- 1.8 recognise fire hazards within a workplace
  - identifying sources of fuel and ignition
  - observation of tasks, consultation with employees
- 1.9 identify the location of people at risk in case of fire
  - population of workplace
  - vulnerable groups

- 1.10 identify and evaluate the adequacy of existing fire prevention and protection arrangements
  - principles of separation
  - detection and warning systems
  - means of escape
  - fire fighting
  - maintenance and testing of equipment
  - fire procedures
  - fire safety training
  
- 1.11 make recommendations based on the findings of a fire risk assessment
  - improvements to reduce risks
  
- 1.12 record the findings of a fire risk assessment
  
- 1.13 review and revise a fire risk assessment when necessary

## **Scheme of Assessment**

### **Workplace-based assessment task**

Candidates book and pay for their assessment direct with BSC Awards. They then receive, electronically, a risk assessment task, which must be completed in their own workplace. The risk assessment task and marking criteria are published on pages 10-13 of this specification.

Candidates submit their completed risk assessment task electronically to BSC Awards, from where it is forwarded to an external examiner for marking. Results and certificates are issued within ten working days.

### **Authentication**

Although candidates may need to consult work colleagues in order to obtain information necessary to completing the risk assessment, the completed task must be entirely the candidate's own work. Candidates are responsible for identifying a senior work colleague, normally their line manager, to authenticate their work. This individual must provide contact details to BSC Awards to permit checks to be made. These contact details should be entered on the electronic cover sheet that accompanies the completed task.

Plagiarism is a serious form of malpractice, and candidates found guilty of it will be disqualified by BSC Awards. At the same time, it represents a lost opportunity for the candidate's organisation to benefit directly from the work undertaken to complete assessment task. Line managers, or individuals authenticating candidates' work, are expected to make checks to ensure that the work is indeed the candidate's own.



## BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment

### Candidate Response Form

#### How to complete this form

Type your responses in the white boxes only; they will expand to accept all your text.

Do not amend text in the blue boxes.

Make sure you complete the verifier details, or the form will be returned to you.

If you have any difficulties completing the form, contact BSC Awards by telephone on 020 8600 1035.

When you have completed the form, e-mail it as an attachment to BSC Awards at

**submissions@bscawards.org**

#### Candidate details

**Candidate Name**

(as it will appear on your certificate)

**Candidate Number (your unique identifier)**

**Brief description of your job**

#### Candidate declaration

The work that you submit for assessment must be your own. If you copy from someone else, or allow another candidate to copy from you, you may be disqualified from the qualification. In submitting this form, you are declaring that the work is your own. If you have received any help or consulted any sources, these must be clearly acknowledged in the answer form.

#### Verifier details

Enter below the name and contact details of your line manager or other responsible person in your place of work who will act as your verifier. This person must be prepared to confirm that you completed the assessment task yourself without assistance; BSC Awards may contact them to check this. You must ensure that they understand their responsibility.

**Verifier's name**

**Verifier's position**

**Verifier's direct telephone number**

## BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment Task

Before starting, you are advised to familiarise yourself with the marking criteria at the end of this template.

**1. Briefly describe the workplace in which you carried out your fire risk assessment.**

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**2. Briefly explain why you carried out the fire risk assessment.**

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**3. Briefly describe how you carried out the fire risk assessment (information gathered, people consulted, etc).**

--

**4. Identify FOUR different fire hazards that are present in your workplace.**

	Fire hazard (that could cause a fire to start)
1	
2	
3	
4	

**5. Identify THREE groups of people who may be at risk from fire in your workplace and identify their location.**

	Group of people at risk	Location of people at risk
1		
2		
3		

**6. Identify ONE fire hazard from (4) above and describe the situation or event that could cause a fire to start.**

Fire hazard	
Situation or event leading to fire	
Explain the way(s) in which the fire could spread through the workplace	

**7. Based on fire prevention principles give a brief outline of your estimate of the likelihood of a fire starting in this situation and give your reasoning.**

<b>H</b> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/>	<b>M</b> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/>	<b>L</b> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/>
Reasoning (justification):		

**8. Identify any further action that is needed to prevent a fire from starting in the situation outlined in (6) above**

--

<b>9. With regard to Detection and Warning Systems in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>10. With regard to Means of Escape in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>11. With regard to Fire Fighting arrangements in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>12. With regard to Maintenance and Testing of Equipment in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>13. With regard to Emergency Procedures and Arrangements in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>14. With regard to Fire Safety Training in your workplace:</b> a) briefly describe the existing arrangements b) briefly outline how adequate these arrangements are c) briefly outline any recommendations for improvement.	
Existing arrangements	
How adequate?	
Recommendations	

<b>15. Outline when and in what circumstances you would review this risk assessment.</b>	

## Marking Criteria

	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	Clear description of workplace. Clear rationale for risk assessment.	Adequate description of workplace. Adequate rationale for risk assessment.	Limited description of workplace. Limited rationale for risk assessment.	No description of workplace, or no rationale for risk assessment.
<b>Methodology</b>	Clear description of a range of appropriate techniques.	Adequate description of one or more appropriate techniques.	Limited description of techniques which may not always be appropriate.	No description of techniques or wholly inappropriate techniques.
<b>Hazard, how it might cause harm and to whom</b>	Hazard and potential for fire clearly identified. All persons at risk clearly identified.	Hazard and potential for fire identified. Most persons at risk identified.	Hazard or potential for fire not clearly identified. Insufficient persons identified or unclear.	No hazard identified or no attempt to identify potential for fire. No persons or wrong persons identified.
<b>Description of existing arrangements</b>	Arrangements clearly described.	Arrangements adequately described.	Arrangements inadequately described.	Arrangements not described.
<b>Evaluation of existing arrangements</b>	A good attempt at evaluating arrangements.	Some attempt at evaluating arrangements.	Little attempt at evaluating arrangements.	No attempt at evaluating arrangements.
<b>Recommendations for improvement</b>	A good range of appropriate recommendations.	A range of appropriate recommendations.	Few appropriate recommendations.	No appropriate recommendations.

## **Reasonable Adjustments**

When necessary, BSC Awards approves reasonable adjustments for candidates with particular requirements to enable them to have access to fair assessment and to demonstrate achievement. Candidates may require reasonable adjustments for a number of reasons including a permanent or temporary disability or medical condition.

Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that candidates receive recognition of their achievement without compromising the equity, validity and reliability of the assessment. They are not concessions to make assessment easier for candidates, nor advantages to give candidates a head start.

The Reasonable Adjustments Policy may be downloaded from the BSC Awards website ([www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications)). Candidates requiring reasonable adjustments for their assessment must submit a Reasonable Adjustment Application Form (available on the website) to the Qualifications Manager at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **Special Consideration**

Special consideration involves procedures that may result in an adjustment to the marks of candidates who have not been able to demonstrate attainment because of exceptional circumstances during the assessment itself.

The Special Consideration Policy may be downloaded from the BSC Awards website ([www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications)). Candidates requiring special consideration for their assessment must submit a Special Consideration Application Form (available on the website) within 5 working days of submitting their assessment.

## **Malpractice**

The fairness of the assessment process depends upon all parties acting in good faith and adhering to the highest professional standards of conduct. Any evidence of deviation from such standards may lead to disqualification of candidates. Candidates should familiarise themselves with the Malpractice Policy (available at [www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications)).

## **Marking, Awarding and Reporting of Results**

Assessment tasks for the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment are externally marked by examiners appointed and trained by BSC Awards. Rigorous standardisation procedures, including a meeting of examiners, ensure that all examiners apply the marking criteria in exactly the same way and that all tasks are marked to the same standard.

The marks for the various parts of the risk assessment task are combined to give a mark for the qualification as a whole. Marks are converted to a 'pass' or 'fail' by comparison with the pass mark for the qualification as a whole. This pass mark (12/18) reflects an adequate performance in each aspect of the marking criteria.

### **Reporting of Results**

Candidates' results are reported as pass or fail for the qualification as a whole.

### **Issue of Results**

Results are issued within ten working days of receipt of the assessment task by BSC Awards. Results and certificates are sent under the same cover to the address supplied by candidates upon registration for the qualification.

### **Resubmissions**

Candidates may resubmit their risk assessment task upon payment of the appropriate fee.

## **Result Enquiries and Appeals**

BSC Awards endorses the right of individuals to enquire about their result and to appeal against the outcome of that enquiry. Procedures are in place to ensure that result enquiries and appeals are dealt with thoroughly and fairly.

A result enquiry or an appeal can result in a grade being confirmed, raised or lowered. Where a grade is changed, the new grade will replace the original grade, whether it is higher or lower.

The Result Enquiries and Appeals Policy may be downloaded from the BSC Awards website ([www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org/qualifications)). To request a result enquiry the candidate must submit a Result Enquiry Application Form (available on the website) to BSC Awards within 14 days of the result issue date.

## Appendix A

### Relationship to National Occupational Standards

The National Occupational Standards for Health and Safety are designed to support the development of good practice and awareness in the workplace, and the needs of employers and employees. They have been developed and reviewed in consultation with employers, sector specialists and stakeholders, professional bodies, regulators and awarding bodies.

The content of the BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment has been mapped to the relevant units of the National Occupational Standards. The table below shows for each unit of the standards the relevant learning outcomes in the specification.

Unit	Unit Title	Learning outcome(s)
<b>HSS1</b>	Make sure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety	1.3, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11
<b>HSS6</b>	Conduct a health and safety risk assessment of a workplace	1.3, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.13

## **Appendix B**

### **Key Skills**

Key skills are a range of essential generic skills that underpin success in education, employment, lifelong learning and personal development. For learners working towards the key skill qualifications in Communication, Application of Number or IT, assessment comprises an internal (portfolio) and an external (test) component. For those working towards the wider key skill units of Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance or Problem Solving, assessment is via an internal (portfolio) component alone.

The BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment offers candidates a number of opportunities to develop key skills and prepare evidence for a portfolio. Successful completion of the Level 2 Certificate does not in itself imply attainment of the listed key skills: this depends on the teaching and learning methods adopted by the tutor and candidate and on the candidate producing a portfolio of evidence.

The tables on pages 19-20 suggest an appropriate target level for each of the six key skills, an example of an activity that could contribute to the candidate's portfolio and a reference to the relevant learning outcome in the specification. Candidates may identify other activities related to this qualification that could provide evidence for other skills or levels. More information on key skills standards, qualifications and awarding bodies is available on the QCA website ([www.qca.org.uk/keyskills](http://www.qca.org.uk/keyskills)).

<b>Communication</b>	<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
C2.1a Take part in a group discussion.	Consult with workforce about the effectiveness of existing fire prevention and protection arrangements.	1.10
C2.1b Give a talk of at least four minutes.	Make an oral presentation to senior management recommending measures to improve fire prevention and protection measures.	1.11
C2.2 Read and summarise information from two documents about the same subject.	Research Fire Safety Order and HSE's guidance on fire risk assessment.	1.4
C2.3 Write two types of document giving different information.	Complete a risk assessment form. Write a report recommending measures to control a risk in a workplace area, task or process.	1.12 1.11

<b>Application of number</b>	<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
N2.1 Interpret information from a suitable source.	Research the cost of new or improved equipment.	1.11
N2.2 Use your information to carry out calculations.	Calculate the cost for implementing the new or improved equipment across the organisation.	1.11
N2.3 Interpret the results of your calculations and present your findings.	Prepare and present information to senior managers on the cost of implementing the new or improved equipment across the organisation.	1.11

<b>Information and communications technology</b>	<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
ICT2.1 Search for and select information to meet your needs. Use different information sources and multiple search criteria.	Research the costs to the organisation of complying with the new Fire Safety Order.	1.4
ICT2.3 Present combined information such as text with number and image.	Prepare and present a report to management on the costs to the organisation of complying with the new Fire Safety Order.	1.4

<b>Improving own learning and performance</b>		<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
LP2.1	Help set targets with an appropriate person and plan how these will be met.	Draw up a plan with your line manager for completion of a risk assessment to be authenticated by them.	Assessment task
LP2.2	Take responsibility for some decisions about your learning, using your plan to help meet targets and improve your performance.	Use plan to identify steps to completion, and work to meet these.	Assessment task
LP2.3	Review progress with an appropriate person and provide evidence of your achievements.	Review progress on the assessment task, evaluating performance against the plan.	Assessment task

<b>Problem solving</b>		<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
PS2.1	Identify a problem with help from an appropriate person, and identify different ways of tackling it.	Identify an inadequate existing control measure and, in consultation with line manager and employees, propose additional control measures.	1.10
PS2.2	Plan and try out at least one way of solving the problem.	Plan and implement an additional control measure in accordance with the hierarchy of controls.	1.11
PS2.3	Check if the problem has been solved and identify ways to improve problem solving skills.	Review the additional control measure and revise the risk assessment accordingly.	1.13

<b>Working with others</b>		<b>Suggested Activity</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>
WO2.1	Plan work with others.	Plan the risk assessment schedule in consultation with line managers.	1.10
WO2.2	Work co-operatively towards achieving the identified objectives.	Work with colleagues to identify hazards and evaluate existing controls.	1.10
WO2.3	Review your contributions and agree ways to improve work with others.	Review the risk assessment and your contributions, and determine how effective working together was and how it could have been made more effective.	1.13

## **Appendix C**

### **Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social, Cultural and Other Issues**

The BSC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment presents opportunities for developing understanding of moral, ethical, social, legislative, economic and cultural issues, as well as those of health and safety. In particular, the qualification considers the moral and ethical reasons for suitable and sufficient risk assessments alongside social, legislative and economic reasons. Cultural issues concerning acceptability of risk are addressed in connection with the control of risk 'so far as is reasonably practicable'.