



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Fire Precautions in Designated Centres

**Draft Guidance for Registered Providers and
Persons in Charge of Designated Centres for
Older People**

November 2015

Updated document available

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Introduction

The framework for the regulation of residential services for older people consists of the Health Act 2007 as amended, the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013, the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2015 and the National Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland.

The requirements relating to fire precautions are covered specifically under Regulation 28 (Fire Precautions) of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013. The layout of this document reflects Regulation 28, with the requirements of each sub-regulation discussed in turn.

This draft guidance sets out the necessary arrangements and precautions that a registered provider and person in charge should have in place to satisfy regulation with respect to fire precautions in designated centres for older people. It also outlines what inspectors would expect to see in a fully compliant designated centre.

In producing this draft guidance, the Authority has taken account of the primary Irish fire safety guidance document intended for nursing homes and other similar type premises, 'Fire Safety in Nursing Homes', published in July 1996 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Authority has also taken account of current international best practice across the sector which includes the following:

- 'Practical Fire Safety Guidance for Care Homes' published in February 2014 by the Scottish Government
- 'Fire Safety Risk Assessment in Residential Care Premises' published in May 2006 by HM Government in England
- Firecode NIHTM 84: Fire Risk Assessment in Residential Care Premises' published in November 2013 by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.

This draft guidance is a summary of the necessary arrangements and fire precautions that should be in place in designated centres. This document is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of the law. For more detailed and comprehensive guidance on fire precautions, registered providers should consult the relevant fire safety guidance set out in Appendix 1.

Risk management

The risk posed by fire should be subject to ongoing risk assessment in designated centres. This should be part of the risk management procedures referred to under Regulation 26 (Risk Management) of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013. This should be reviewed periodically, particularly when changes occur within the centre that may increase the risk posed by fire, such as changes to the premises or to the dependency of residents. Fire hazards should be identified and appropriate control measures implemented to eliminate or control all associated risks.

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Precautions against the risk of fire¹

General housekeeping

Housekeeping is a very important part of an efficient fire safety regime. Typical examples of good housekeeping would include:

- not storing combustible materials in plant rooms, boiler rooms, attics, service voids and shafts, electrical main or sub-switch rooms
- storage of materials and equipment in dedicated storage areas, storerooms or cupboards
- regular checks and cleaning to remove and prevent the accumulation of waste in spaces such as plant rooms, service voids and shafts, and basements
- control and frequent disposal of packaging, waste and other combustible rubbish
- loose storage, bins and waste external to the building sited well away from the building so that any fire cannot affect external walls or overhanging eaves
- external bins and storage containers secured to prevent movement
- where fire-raising is a potential problem, bin and container lids fitted with locks
- carrying out regular building checks to ensure that storage arrangements are being complied with
- particular attention paid to housekeeping in any smoking rooms provided
- storing medical gases securely and away from escape routes
- maintenance of cooking equipment, including the avoidance of build ups of grease in traps and extraction equipment
- maintenance of laundry equipment, particularly the avoidance of lint build up in dryers and proper ventilation of dryers
- regular checking of fixed and handheld electrical equipment to ensure it is maintained in safe working order.

¹ Regulation 28. (1) (a) states *the registered provider shall take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, and shall provide suitable fire fighting equipment, suitable building services, and suitable bedding and furnishings*

Regular checks

As a matter of good practice, on a daily basis, staff should check for obstructions and/or combustibles on escape routes, that fire doors are not wedged open and that there are no warnings or faults on the fire alarm panel. In addition, on a weekly basis, staff should check door fastenings, hold open devices on doors, lighting (for damage), fire fighting equipment and test a manual call point (red fire alarm break glass unit) or automatic fire detector on the fire alarm system etc. The nature of the checks required will vary depending on the designated centre and the fire equipment in use within the centre. All checks should be recorded.

Use of oxygen

Oxygen is commonly used in designated centres. High concentrations of oxygen can cause materials to burn extremely rapidly and can cause some materials to burn that are not normally combustible. It can also cause an explosion if in contact with materials such as grease and oil. Smoking should not be allowed anywhere near areas where oxygen is used or stored. The use of electrical equipment such as hairdryers and electric razors should be avoided in close proximity to anywhere oxygen is stored or used. Cylinders should be stored securely in an upright position when not in use, ideally externally. They should not be located in stairs, corridors or near any possible ignition source.

Smoking

Careless use of cigarettes and other smoking materials is a common cause of fire. Staff need to be vigilant. A cigarette may smoulder for some time, especially when surrounded by combustible material. A fire can start several hours after smoking materials have been emptied into waste bags and left for future disposal. Where smoking by residents is permitted in designated rooms, sufficient quantities of ashtrays should be provided. Ashtrays should be emptied regularly into a metal container which is then taken outside. Ashtrays should not be emptied into plastic waste bags. The number of combustibles in dedicated smoking rooms should be limited.

Inspections of smoking areas should be made regularly, with staff being vigilant for any sign of scorch marks or burning. Staff should ensure that discarded smokers' materials are removed and that they are fully extinguished. Evidence of scorch marks or burn marks on furniture or carpets indicates that some residents may need additional supervision.

Risk control and supervision needs to be considered for those residents that have a history or may be susceptible, this could be through careless use of smoking materials, a medical condition that increases the risk when smoking, or those who may use lighters or matches in an attempt to start a fire.

Fire fighting equipment²

Fire extinguishers should be provided throughout the premises. The type of fire extinguisher should be appropriate to the risk. They should be positioned on escape routes, close to rooms or storey exits and if necessary, next to hazards. They should typically be placed on a stand or hung on a wall in a manner that staff can easily access them if required. Fire blankets should also be provided where necessary. Fire fighting equipment should be installed in accordance with Irish Standard I.S. 291.

Building services³

Building services include:

- heating
- communication
- electrical
- lift

^{2 3} Regulation 28. (1) (a) states *the registered provider shall take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, and shall provide suitable fire fighting equipment, suitable building services, and suitable bedding and furnishings*

- lighting
- security
- ventilation
- water.

These installations should be suitable for the premises and not pose a risk in the event of a fire. Specialist advice should be sought if there is any doubt as to the safety of any building services.

Upholstered furniture, bedding and clothing⁴

The filling material in many items of upholstered furniture may easily catch fire, so it is important that furniture be maintained in good condition with no rips or tears that expose the filling material. Particular care should be taken in rooms designated as smoking rooms.

Bedding can be a potential fuel source in the event of fire and consideration should therefore be given to choice of bedding. While there are many standards to which bedding and fabrics can be tested, as a matter of good practice, bedding marked or labelled as flammable should be avoided. This is of particular importance in shared bedrooms or if a particular resident is a smoker or has behavioural issues that may lead to them lighting fires.

Appropriate controls must be in place in tandem with the procedures to follow in the event the clothes of a resident catch fire. These control measures should be identified as part of the risk assessment process. Particular care must be taken that smoking rooms are provided with appropriate equipment to extinguish the clothes of a resident, such as a fire blanket.

Labels attached to bedding, drapes, clothing and upholstered furniture can be helpful and informative in regard to the above.

⁴ Regulation 28. (1) (a) states *the registered provider shall take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, and shall provide suitable fire fighting equipment, suitable building services, and suitable bedding and furnishings*

Means of escape⁵

Escape routes⁶ should be clear from obstruction and must be sufficiently wide to enable evacuation of the building, taking into account the physical condition of residents and the evacuation methods likely to be employed. Obstructions to be avoided include (but are not limited to) furniture, curtains or blinds hung in a way so as to impede the use of a final exit. Typically, corridors and stairways should be at least 1150mm wide for high dependency residents, but not less than 900mm in most cases other than the small domestic type setting. In all premises other than small centres, each storey should have at least two independent escape routes.

Corridors and stairways on escape routes should be maintained as sterile areas and should not be used for storage. This is of particular importance where such corridor or stairway constitutes the only escape route from part of a building.

An escape route should not be by way of a lift, unless the lift is specifically designed for the purpose of evacuation.

The final exit on an escape route from a building to the outside should lead to an area of safety. If it leads to an enclosed area such as a yard or garden, the area should ideally have a means of exit without re-entry to the building. If there is no way to exit the area without re-entering the building, the area must be large enough to ensure the safety of occupants. As a rule of thumb, the enclosed area must allow occupants to get as far away from the building as the building is high.

External escape stairways are acceptable in existing buildings as an alternative means of escape where the building has no more than three storeys and a suitable internal stairway cannot be practicably provided. It must be sufficiently wide to evacuate the building safely, taking into account the physical condition of residents and the evacuation methods likely to be employed. The external wall adjacent to the external escape route must be fire-resistant (as well as any doors and windows) to protect occupants on escape route from any fire within the building.

⁵ Regulation 28. (1) (b) states *the registered provider shall provide adequate means of escape, including emergency lighting;*

⁶ Detailed guidance on escape route design is beyond the scope of this document.

Consideration should be given to the use of inner rooms. An inner room is a room not accessed from a circulation space, such as a corridor, where the only way in or out of the room is through another room. Inner rooms should not be used as bedrooms.

For centres using phased evacuation, the building must be divided appropriately with fire resistant construction. The division of the centre into sub-compartments with fire resistant construction is necessary to provide adequate means of escape to areas of relative safety elsewhere in the building.

Doors on escape routes should ideally not be fitted with any locking device. If a locking device is required, the locking device should be openable in the direction of escape without the use of a key. In simplest terms this would include thumb turn locks fitted to doors provided for a small number of occupants or push bar and push pad devices fitted to doors provided for large numbers of occupants. Where additional controls are required to safeguard residents, one or more of the following should be in place:

- electrically powered lock (with suitable fail safe, typically connection to the fire alarm and/or green 'break glass unit')
- increased staff supervision
- motion detector which actuates local alarm
- door exiting alert
- relocation of particular residents.

Where accommodation is provided for people with dementia or cognitive impairment and a risk assessment identifies that residents may disperse in the wrong direction in the event of a fire alarm activation, key-operated or staff-controlled doors on escape routes are sometimes provided. However, the possible delay in escape from the centre due to the presence of these doors must be compensated for by the ability of well-trained staff to organise a controlled evacuation more quickly, and with greater confidence, than if the residents had dispersed independently. In such cases, all staff members should have the key for such doors and the key should also be held near each door in a break glass unit.

Emergency lighting⁷

Emergency lighting should be installed and maintained to Irish Standard IS: 3217. Emergency lighting is lighting provided in the event of power failure to the regular lighting within a building. It should be provided to circulation spaces such as stairs, lobbies and corridors in all centres. For larger centres, it should also be provided in large dayrooms, circulation spaces etc. and generally throughout the building (other than bedrooms and other small rooms). It is also recommended that escape lighting be provided outside the building adjacent to final exits; this is to facilitate safe dispersal of occupants outside of the building where necessary.

The system can be maintained or non-maintained. Maintained systems are always illuminated. Non-maintained systems only illuminate in the event of power failure.

Maintenance⁸

Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers should be maintained once a year by a competent person. The standard for the installation and maintenance of extinguishers is Irish Standard IS 291. Staff should be trained in their use.

Quarterly servicing of fire alarm and emergency lighting

In addition to daily and weekly checks by staff in the centre, the Irish Standard stipulates that the fire alarm system and emergency lighting system should be serviced quarterly by a competent person.

⁷ Regulation 28. (1) (b) states *the registered provider shall provide adequate means of escape, including emergency lighting;*

⁸ Regulation 28. (1) (c) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (i) maintaining of all fire equipment, means of escape, building fabric and building services;*

Means of escape

As a matter of good practice, on a daily basis, staff should check for obstructions and/or combustibles on escape routes, that fire doors are not wedged open and that there are no warnings or faults on the fire alarm panel.

In addition, on a weekly basis, staff should check door fastenings, hold-open devices on doors, lighting units (for damage), fire fighting equipment and test a manual call point or detector on the fire alarm panel etc. The nature of the checks required will vary depending on the designated centre and the fire equipment in use within the centre. All checks should be recorded.

Building fabric and building services

Any damage to the fabric of the building such as holes in walls or damage to handrails, doors, windows and flooring should be identified as part of housekeeping checks and attended to on a timely basis, particularly where the damage could pose a risk in the event of a fire.

Building services such as gas, electricity, ventilation systems and lifts should be adequately maintained. Any malfunction or damage to these systems that pose a fire risk should be repaired in a timely fashion.

Combustible wall finishes

Consideration of combustible wall finishes⁹ is important as it could prevent occupants from escaping and spread fire. It is especially important that appropriate wall finishes are used for escape routes such as corridors and stairways. Examples of non-combustible wall finishes would include brickwork, blockwork, concrete, ceramic tiles and plaster finish.

⁹ Any more than basic guidance on linings on internal walls is beyond the scope of this document.

Review of fire precautions¹⁰

Arrangements for fire precautions should be reviewed for adequacy and any learning from training or adverse events are integrated into fire precautions. Fire precautions in place must reflect current best practice in as much as is possible.

As previously discussed, all fire equipment should be tested as part of ongoing maintenance.

Training¹¹

Suitable training should be provided to staff. The frequency of training will usually be annually but may be carried out more often depending on risk assessment and turnover of staff. Training is required:

- when staff start employment or are transferred into the premises
- when changes have been made to the emergency plan and the preventive and protective measures
- where working practices and processes or people's responsibilities change
- to take account of any changed risks to the safety of staff or other relevant persons
- to ensure that staff know what they have to do to safeguard themselves and others on the premises.

¹⁰ Regulation 28. (1) (c) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (ii) reviewing fire precautions, and (iii) testing fire equipment.*

¹¹ Regulation 28. (1) (d) states *the registered provider shall make arrangements for staff of the designated centre to receive suitable training in fire prevention and emergency procedures, including evacuation procedures, building layout and escape routes, location of fire alarm call points, first aid, fire fighting equipment, fire control techniques and the procedures to be followed should the clothes of a resident catch fire.*

Training should be given by persons competent to do so. Certain elements of training will be specific to the designated centre. Typical areas a thorough training programme would cover include:

- the importance of keeping fire-doors closed (or closing them) to prevent the spread of fire, heat and smoke
- what to do on discovering a fire
- how to raise the alarm and what happens then
- what to do upon hearing the fire alarm
- the procedures for alerting other staff, residents and visitors including, where appropriate, directing them to exits
- the arrangements for calling the fire and rescue service
- the identification and use of protected areas for phased evacuation
- the evacuation procedures for everyone in the centre to reach an assembly point at a place of total safety, in particular the role of residents
- the evacuation procedures for residents who require assisted escape, to reach an assembly point at a safe place
- resident handling where staff are required to assist in the evacuation of residents and training in the use of any evacuation aids if required
- the location and, when appropriate, the use of fire fighting equipment
- the location of escape routes, especially those not in regular use
- how to open all emergency exit doors
- where appropriate, how to stop machines, appliances and processes and isolate power supplies in the event of a fire
- the reason for not using lifts (except those specifically installed or nominated, following a suitable fire risk assessment, for the evacuation of people with a disability)
- how to reduce risk when working with or storing highly flammable and explosive substances and bottled or piped oxygen
- the importance of general fire safety, which includes good housekeeping
- fire drills, with and without residents' involvement
- procedures to be followed should the clothes of a resident catch fire.

Fire drills¹²

Drills should be used to determine if the fire procedure is fit for purpose. They should also be used to identify training, staff and equipment needs.

There is no legislative requirement to carry out a minimum number of fire drills per year. The requirement is that the frequency of drills is suitable to ensure that staff and in so far as is reasonably practicable, residents, are aware of the procedure to follow in the event of fire. This will usually be at least twice a year but drills may be carried out more often depending on risk assessment and turnover of staff.

The feasibility of involving residents who can't walk or who have reduced mobility should be considered with the welfare of the resident the main priority; but residents should be included in fire drills whenever possible.

Some drills should be conducted either at night or simulating night time conditions in order to ensure night time staffing levels are sufficient for evacuation purposes.

Centres should ideally record the length of time taken for evacuation of residents as well as any problems or deficiencies identified during the drill. It should be possible under normal operating conditions to evacuate any given sub-compartment in larger centres or the whole building in smaller centres in 2min 30seconds.

Fire alarm systems¹³

Fire alarm systems are necessary in order to detect and give warning of fire in a timely fashion. Fire alarm systems are generally installed and maintained to Irish Standard IS: 3218. All centres should be provided with a fire alarm system with coverage throughout the building.

¹² Regulation 28. (1) (e) states *the registered provider shall ensure, by means of fire safety management and fire drills at suitable intervals, that the persons working at the designated centre and, in so far as is reasonably practicable, residents, are aware of the procedure to be followed in the case of fire.*

¹³ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (i) detecting, containing and extinguishing fires; (ii) giving warning of fires;*

For premises using phased evacuation, it is important that there is the means for staff to identify from the panel, the area of the building in which the detection has occurred. This is very important to allow staff to know as quickly as possible which sub-compartment to evacuate.

The panel should be located in a visible and accessible location, ideally beside the main access point to the building.

Manual call points should be provided in all cases, typically in circulation spaces (such as stairways, lobbies and corridors) and near exit doors. If malicious activation is a concern, they may be fitted with a transparent cover.

In all cases, it is important that any door releases, hold-open devices on doors and electric door locks connected to the fire alarm system are checked as part of the fire alarm maintenance program.

Compartmentation¹⁴

Compartmentation is necessary to contain fire, should one occur. Compartmentation refers to the way the building is constructed to restrict the spread of fire by subdividing it into compartments separated from one another by walls and/or floors of fire resistant construction. There are two reasons for this:

1. to prevent rapid fire spread which could trap occupants in the building
2. to reduce the chance of the fire becoming large.

In most common arrangements, the building should be divided into compartments and sub-compartments for phased evacuation. The building would be divided both vertically (walls) and horizontally (floors). Escape stairs and corridors should be fully enclosed in fire resistant construction. Each floor in a centre will be divided into at least two sub-compartments in all but the smallest centres.

¹⁴ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (i) detecting, containing and extinguishing fires; (ii) giving warning of fires;*

In all premises, it is important that all fire hazard rooms are enclosed in robust fire resistant construction with a fire door. Fire hazard rooms are usually self-evident and would include kitchens, bedrooms, laundries, switch rooms, boiler rooms, fuel storage, medical gas storage etc. Where the door to the room is to the outside of the building, it does not need to be a fire door unless it needs to protect an external escape route.

A common problem with fire resistant construction is when a fire resistant partition does not extend above a false ceiling to true ceiling height. This may result in unseen fire spread through the void above the false ceiling.

Fire doors¹⁵

Any access through fire resistant construction mentioned above should be provided by way of fire doors. Effective fire doors are essential to ensure occupant safety in buildings. Their purpose is to hold back fire and smoke, preventing escape routes from becoming unusable as well as preventing fire spread from one area to another.

Fire doors typically have at least three hinges. Fire doors are typically fitted with an intumescent strip¹⁶ and cold smoke seal either around the edge of the door or in the frame of the door. The brush-like cold smoke seal first fills the gap between the door and the frame and prevents the passage of smoke through the door; the intumescent expands when exposed to heat sealing the door to the frame. The intumescent material is often beneath the cold smoke seal. Occasionally, the cold smoke seal will be in the form of a rubber 'blade' instead of a brush seal.

On newer doors, there may be a metal plaque or sticker located along the inner edge of the door or frame with details of the fire door and its rating.

¹⁵ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (i) detecting, containing and extinguishing fires; (ii) giving warning of fires;*

¹⁶ An intumescent strip is a coating or sealant that swells up when heated and seals a gap in the event of a fire.

All fire doors should be fitted with a self-closing device capable of closing the door. This is not a requirement for doors on cupboards and ducts normally kept locked. Where a self-closing device is deemed to be an impediment to a resident, consideration may be given to hold open/release devices. Examples of these would include:

- electromagnetic devices fitted to the fire door that release when the fire alarm operates allowing the door to close
- acoustically activated door release mechanism that releases upon detecting the fire alarm siren allowing the door to close. These are not suitable for fitting to fire doors protecting stairways
- 'free-swing' closers which operate by allowing the door leaf to work independently of the closer until operation of the fire alarm at which point the closer operates and the door will close.

Any devices connected to the fire alarm system must disengage, thus closing the door when the fire alarm is activated as well as in the event of any fire alarm malfunction or power failure.

It is not acceptable to disable a self-closing device through the use of wedges or props. It is not acceptable to remove the self-closing device.

Sprinkler systems¹⁷

The provision and requirements surrounding sprinkler and other fire fighting systems are beyond the scope of this document.

¹⁷ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (i) detecting, containing and extinguishing fires; (ii) giving warning of fires;*

Fire procedure¹⁸

The registered provider should have in place a clear and unambiguous procedure to be followed in relation to fire. It should include the following:

- what staff should do upon hearing the fire alarm
- what staff should do in the event of fire
- evacuation of the centre
- where residents should assemble or be taken after they have left the centre
- how staff check whether the centre has been evacuated.

All staff should be aware of the procedure. The procedure should be consistent; the signage on the wall must match the documentation.

There must be enough staff present in the centre at all times to implement the fire procedure.

Evacuation of the centre¹⁹

The evacuation strategy used for the premises may be either single stage/total evacuation or progressive/phased horizontal evacuation. The evacuation strategy must be clear from the procedure. All staff and residents, where appropriate, must be aware as to what strategy is utilised in the centre.

Total evacuation is where all occupants of a building simultaneously evacuate upon hearing the alarm. This is appropriate for many types of centre, where it may be expected due to building size and/or capability of residents that all people inside are able to (and will) evacuate quickly to a place of safety outside the building.

¹⁸ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (iii) calling the fire service; and (iv) evacuating, where necessary in the event of fire, of all persons in the designated centre and safe placement of residents.*

¹⁹ Regulation 28. (2) states *the registered provider shall make adequate arrangements for: (iii) calling the fire service; and (iv) evacuating, where necessary in the event of fire, of all persons in the designated centre and safe placement of residents.*

Phased evacuation is evacuation in a controlled sequence, with those within the building at the greatest risk being evacuated directly to another part of the building through a fire door or doors into another sub-compartment within the building. The initial movement from one sub-compartment to another is typically horizontal within the building, if the premises layout allows it.

Other than in small centres where residents can escape immediately and quickly to a place of safety in the open air, a phased evacuation strategy will typically be the only realistic evacuation strategy due to the difficulty in moving residents and potentially extended evacuation times.

The fire procedure must reflect the evacuation strategy selected for the centre. A fire procedure for a premises implementing phased evacuation needs to detail how staff will assess the situation to determine the fire location and decide who is at immediate risk. It must detail the process of evacuating the sub-compartment involved and the process of further evacuation of the centre as appropriate to the situation.

For residents of designated centres who are not capable of responding to fire alarm activation and evacuating themselves without assistance, their needs and capabilities in the event of a fire should be assessed. This is typically done by way of a personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP). The content should be agreed with the resident or representative as appropriate. A PEEP should contain primarily:

- a current picture of the resident and pertinent information relating to him/her
- information on the capabilities of the resident in understanding the fire alarm
- information on the capabilities of the resident to evacuate and outline what staff need to do to help them as well as the method of evacuation (wheelchair/walking aids/other evacuation aids)
- information on any supervision requirements after the evacuation.

The method of evacuation for residents, as well as any evacuation aids used, must be appropriate to the needs of residents and must be appropriate to the escape route. Where an evacuation aid such as a ski sheet, wheelchair, comfort chair, wheeled bed etc. has been provided in order meet the evacuation needs of the

resident, all staff must be trained in its use and the escape routes should be suitable for the use of the evacuation aid.

Fire procedure notices and emergency exit signage²⁰

Fire procedure notices must be displayed in a legible format in a prominent location. If a resident is expected to read a notice, then it must be in a format that allows them to do so.

Emergency exit signage is a requirement within designated centres to direct occupants to final exits. There should also be signage indicating fire safety equipment, fire doors etc.

²⁰ Regulation 28. (3) states *the person in charge shall ensure that the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in a prominent place in the designated centre.*

Appendix 1

Further guidance for designated centres for older people

Further guidance can be found at the websites below.

- <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Community/FireandEmergencyServices/FileDownload,820,en.pdf>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-residential-care-premises>
- <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/03/1383>
- http://www.rgia.org.uk/cms_resources/DH1%2011%20938%20%20NIHTM%2084%20-%20Fire%20Risk%20Assessment%20in%20Residential%20.pdf

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