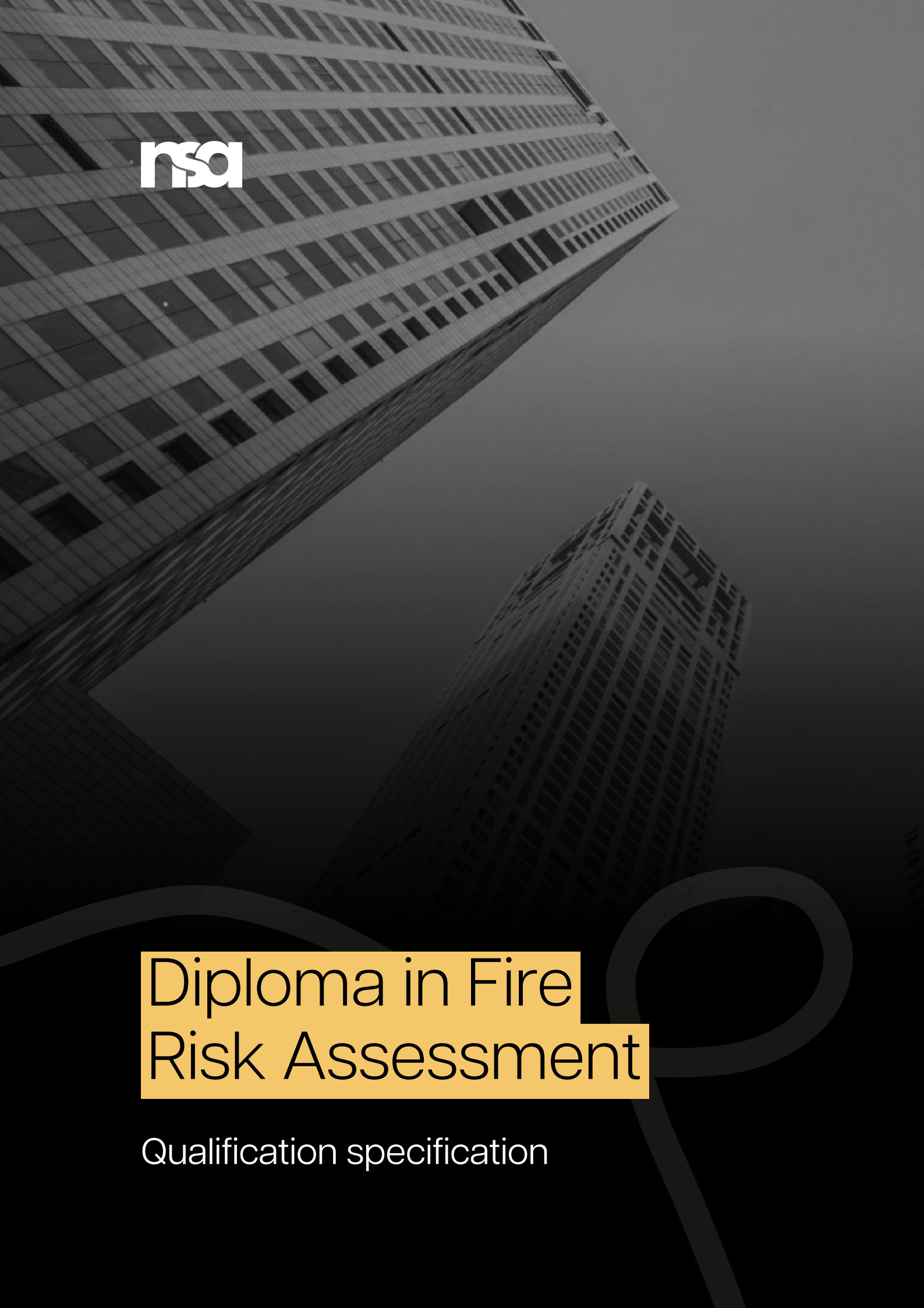


Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment

Qualification specification

Welcome

National Safety Academy is an innovative training provider offering courses and qualifications for safety professionals.

It's important to us that education is accessible. Not just in terms of cost, but also in the way it is delivered.

Learning shouldn't be a battle with complicated textbook paragraphs. It shouldn't be dry PowerPoint slides. It shouldn't be technical information without real-life context. It shouldn't be commitment to classroom dates, time away from work and family, and fixed exam schedules.

Instead, National Safety Academy believes learning should feel natural and engaging. It should be challenging, but in all the right ways. It should be comfortably balanced with personal and professional life. Most importantly, it should prepare and assess the learner in a way which reflects their real-life responsibilities outside of a learning environment.

It's your education, so do it your way.

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About the qualification

Gain the knowledge and skills to assess fire risk effectively in a wide range of premises.

Our courses are designed to take you on a learning journey. You'll always learn from first principles, so expect to come away understanding and being able to explain the why and how – as well as the what.

This qualification has been designed in alignment with the competencies outlined in BS 8674. It addresses all of the knowledge requirements specified in the Standard, from Foundation through to Advanced level. While the qualification also introduces some of the related skills and behaviours, many of these can only be fully developed and demonstrated through practical experience and real-world application.

The NSA Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment has been credit rated by the SQA at **SCQF Level 10**, which is equivalent to RQF Level 6 in England and Wales.

Completion meets the academic requirements to apply for the highest tier of membership with the **IFE** and **IFSM**, subject to your experience in the field.

At a glance

Level
Specialist, SCQF Level 10

Duration
Approximately 410 hours

Delivery
Online, self-directed

Assessment
Three assessments based on real-life scenarios

Credits
41 SCQF credits

Standard
Mapped to all knowledge criteria up to advanced level in BS 8674

Tutot support
7 days a week

Course access
12 months

Who is this qualification for?

The NSA Diploma in FIre Risk Assessment is for individuals who have responsibility for carrying out the fire risk assessment in multiple premises or premises which are low, moderate or high fire risk in the UK.

These individuals might include:

- Fire safety consultants
- In-house fire risk assessors
- Safety professionals
- Building or facilities managers
- Building designers or architects

It would also benefit anyone looking to better understand the principles that underpin the provision of fire safety precautions.

Who is this qualification not suitable for?

This qualification alone is unlikely to provide sufficient knowledge to carry out the fire risk assessment for very high risk premises, or be suitable for those with complex fire safety engineering responsibilities, or those designing and prescribing the fire safety strategy in a new building.

Whilst this qualification will provide a knowledge base enabling the learner to go on to carry out these responsibilities in the future, further study and experience would certainly be required before they would be considered competent to do so.

Your learning journey

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the qualification, you will be able to:

- **Understand and apply fire safety principles to a range of situations.**
  Develop a comprehensive understanding of foundational fire safety principles, including fire dynamics, human behaviour in fire and the legislation that underpins fire safety in England and Wales, and apply it across a variety of complex environments.

- **Evaluate fire safety measures and make recommendations and justifications on how to improve them.**
  Assess existing preventive and protective measures, identify weaknesses or gaps, and suggest reasonable additional control measures, considering the impact on life safety and operational continuity.

- **Justify and communicate recommended fire risk controls, considering any legislative, financial and operational impacts.**
  Provide reasoned arguments for chosen fire risk controls, ensuring they align with legal requirements, fit within budgetary constraints and support operational objectives, and present them clearly and professionally.

- **Demonstrate a sound technical understanding of fire precautions.**
  Show a deep understanding of technical fire precautions, such as fire alarm systems, fire suppression, compartmentation and escape strategies, and explain how they work individually and together to reduce risk.

- **Demonstrate commitment to development of competency in line with current professional standards.**
  Understand what competency means for you as a professional, and stay informed about industry advancements, changes in legislation and standards, and professional best practice.

Your learning journey

Duration

This qualification is **approximately 410 hours** (equivalent to 41 SCQF credits), made up of a mixture of guided learning, assessment and independent research. You can split these hours up whichever way works best for you. You might be able to take 8–10 working weeks to complete the qualification in one go, or alternatively you can fit study in around other commitments in your life.

From the date of enrolment, you'll have **12 months** to complete your qualification.

How is it delivered?

Our courses are designed to be delivered via self-directed, distance learning.

This means you can navigate through the course content in your learning portal online and study whenever and wherever works best for you.

Your learning journey

Course content

Our qualification syllabus ensures progressive learning, building from foundational principles to practical application. You will study **2 units**, each comprised of blocks that guide your development step by step

Welcome	A welcome to the course, academic malpractice policies, and the fire safety landscape in England and Wales.
Unit 1	Starting with an understanding of fire safety law and the science of fire, you will progressively build knowledge on how fire impacts buildings and the people within them.
Foundations of fire safety law	Understand the key elements of fire safety law, including the duties of the Responsible Person and consequences of non-compliance.
The process of combustion	Learn the science of fire, ignition sources, and factors affecting combustion and fire spread.
Fire behaviour	Understand how fire develops in buildings, the impact of construction on fire behaviour, and the influence of some protective measures.
Human behaviour	Predict human reactions to fire and apply models for safe escape, focusing on factors that influence escape time.
Evacuation strategies	Evaluate and implement appropriate evacuation strategies based on specific scenarios and occupant needs.

[Continued]

Assessment 1	
Unit 2	You'll learn to apply fire safety principles in real-world contexts, understanding how complex building features may present risks and how to ensure safe escape routes in both simple and multi-storey structures.
Fire prevention	Apply prevention principles and recommend control measures to manage and reduce fire risk to acceptable levels.
Fire protection	Learn the roles of active and passive fire protection systems and the responsibilities for maintaining them.
Assessment 2	
Means of escape I	Assess escape adequacy in single-storey premises and mitigate risks associated with inner rooms and dead-end conditions.
Means of escape II	Evaluate escape routes in two-storey premises and identify potential risks related to stairways, exits and flow of occupants.
Means of escape III	Assess multi-storey escape strategies in buildings with complex features such as mezzanines and basements.
Fire safety management	Evaluate fire safety management systems and emergency plans, and provide compliance guidance to duty holders.
Becoming a fire risk assessor	Understand the evolving nature of fire safety law and the importance of ongoing professional development for fire risk assessors.
Assessment 3	

[Continued]

ID check

Certificate

Assessment

How will I be assessed?

NSA assessments are designed to reflect real life, and enable you to demonstrate the skills that are required in a workplace. They are designed to measure your understanding of key concepts, your ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations, and your critical thinking skills.

Our Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment qualification consists of three assessments in total:

Assessment 1 | Giving advice

Respond to a series of emails from clients asking for fire safety advice. This assessment has a two-week deadline from the date of request.

Assessment 2 | Upholding fire precautions

Explain deficiencies in preventive and protective systems at a client's premises. Produce a written report along with an audio clip of your executive summary for the client. This assessment has a four-week deadline from the date of request.

Assessment 3 | Fire risk assessment

Complete a fire risk assessment of a moderate risk premises in a real-life simulation. This assessment has a six-week deadline from the date of request.

Assessment

Completing your assessments

When you reach the relevant points in the qualification, you will be able to complete your assessments when you are ready from within the learning portal.

The timescales to complete each assessment are as follows:

Assessment 1	2 weeks from the date of request
Assessment 2	4 weeks from the date of request
Assessment 3	6 weeks from the date of request

Grading and feedback

Your assessments will be marked by our team of assessors, who will aim to mark each assessment and provide feedback within 10 working days, which you'll be able to access through your learning portal.

We use a Pass/Refer grading system

This simply means:

Pass – you've met all the assessment criteria.
Refer – one or more of the assessment criteria was not met.

Assessment

Resubmissions

Remember, a 'refer' isn't a fail – it's an opportunity to refine your skills and knowledge so you can be even more effective in keeping people safe in real life.

Your assessor will provide feedback on any parts of the assessment where you haven't fully met the criteria. This feedback will clearly highlight the specific areas that need improvement, so you'll know exactly where to return to the learning materials and review your understanding.

When you're ready, you can resubmit your assessment at any time, after payment of the associated fee. For information on current fees, please review our Resubmission and Late Submission Policy.

Late submissions

We understand that sometimes things don't go as planned. If you know you're unable to submit your assessment on time, please let us know as soon as possible to discuss your options.

If your assessment is submitted late or not at all, it will be graded as a 'Refer'. You will be issued with a new assessment scenario when you come to retake the assessment and will need to pay the appropriate fees. Please see our Resubmission and Late Submission Policy for more information and our current fees.

Certification

Once you have passed all of the required assessments, you will just need to complete our identity verification checks before your digital certificate is issued.

Hard copy certificates are available on request for a fee of £20 + VAT.

Support

What support will I receive?

Your learning journey will be supported with our digital workbook using real-life examples, case studies and videos. Our learning materials use everyday language that just makes sense – the first time you read it.

You will navigate through the qualification content in your learning portal online. To support your learning, you'll also have access to:

- 7-day-a-week tutor support via email and our forums
- Consolidation activities at the end of each block to test your understanding.
- Community forums to learn and share knowledge with your peers.
- Learner support team for queries around your enrolment, policies and procedures.

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Support

Our community

Our community is designed to be a supportive and collaborative environment. Connect with fellow safety professionals, share experiences, and ask questions. Parts of our community are open to everyone, while others are exclusive to qualification participants.

You will be automatically enrolled in the relevant areas of the community upon purchasing your qualification. Feel free to introduce yourself and start a conversation.