LPCB approval schemes for companies installing and maintaining active and passive fire protection systems

Even with the best equipment: fire detection, fire suppression, gas extinguishing and passive fire protection systems are only effective if they are correctly designed, installed, commissioned and maintained. It is therefore vital that specifiers only select competent installation companies holding independent third party approval.

Protecting people and property from fire hazards is paramount. Whether the fire protection is comprised of active or passive systems, it is essential that these systems are installed and maintained correctly, in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions. Failure to do so could compromise the integrity of the fire safety system.

The approval schemes covered in this leaflet ensure that installers are competent to design, install, commission and maintain systems, as described in the relevant LPS scheme document.

LPCB approval schemes for installers of fire protection systems comprise:
- Technical assessment of the installer’s competence
- Approval of the installer’s quality management system to ISO 9001 (or assessment against the requirements of the relevant Loss Prevention Standard (LPS) where ISO 9001 is not appropriate)
- Regular surveillance inspections of on-going installations
- Certificates of Conformity which are issued for each installation to demonstrate compliance with the specification
- Listing of the approved installer company in the LPCB RedBook.

The benefits to specifiers, main contractors and regulators include:
- Avoidance of costly mistakes: LPCB approved companies have demonstrated competence in the installation of fire protection products and systems.
- Risk reduction: specifying third party approved companies demonstrates due diligence and mitigates against possible accusations of negligence.
- Regular inspections of completed projects completed by LPCB approved companies which ensures they maintain an ongoing acceptable level of competence.
- Robust schemes: LPCB third party approval schemes are developed in conjunction with appropriate external stakeholders including insurers, regulators, end-user clients, etc. who provide feedback to ensure that the LPCB schemes are relevant and fit-for-purpose.
- Time saved in selection: all LPCB approved companies are listed in the RedBook, where specifiers can check the up-to-date listings.
Active fire protection systems

Fire detection and alarm systems

LPS 1014 Requirements for certificated fire detection and alarm system firms.
In accordance with the following standards/codes:
- BS 5839 Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings
- BS 6266 Code of practice for fire protection for electronic data processing installations
- BS 7273-1 Code of practice for the operation of fire protection measures
- NFPA 72 National fire alarm and signalling code.

Gas extinguishing systems

LPS 1204 Requirements for firms engaged in the design, installation, commissioning and servicing of gas extinguishing systems.
In accordance with the following standards/codes:
- ISO 14520 Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems – physical properties and system design
- EN 15004 Fixed firefighting systems – gas extinguishing systems
- BS 5306 Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises – Part 4: 2001 – Specification for carbon dioxide systems
- NFPA 12 Standard on carbon dioxide extinguishing systems
- NFPA 2001 Standard on clean agent fire extinguishing systems
- FM Data Book 4-11 N Carbon dioxide extinguishing systems (NFPA)
- LPS 1230 Requirements for fire testing of fixed gaseous fire extinguishing systems.
In this scheme it is recommended that the approved installer is responsible for the total system, including the integration of the following elements:
- Risk assessment
- Extinguishing design concentration
- Enclosure structural/leakage integrity
- Discharge/post discharge venting
- Electrical system integration.

Automatic sprinkler systems

LPS 1048 Requirements for the approval of sprinkler system contractors in the UK and Eire.

LPS 1148 Requirements for contractors engaged in the design, installation, commissioning and servicing of automatic sprinkler systems (outside UK and Eire).
In accordance with the following standards/codes:
- BS EN 12845 Fixed fire-fighting systems – automatic sprinkler systems – design, installation and maintenance
- LPC rules for automatic sprinkler installations, incorporating BS EN 12845, and all Technical Bulletins
- BS 9251 Sprinkler systems for residential and domestic occupancies – code of practice
- NFPA 13 Installation of sprinkler systems
- FM Global Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets.

LPS 1301 Requirements for the approval of sprinkler installers.
In accordance with the following standards/codes:
- BS 9251 Sprinkler systems for residential and domestic occupancies – code of practice.
Passive fire protection systems

LPS 1531 Requirements for the approval and listing of companies installing or applying passive fire protection products.

This scheme covers the following products, which are installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications:
- Penetration, cavity barrier and linear gap seals
- Fire-rated board and cladding to structural elements
- Intumescent coatings to structural elements
- Fire-rated spray materials
- Fire-rated ductwork systems
- Fire resisting dampers
- Fire resistant compartment wall systems
- Offsite application of intumescent coatings to structural elements

LPS 1197 Requirements for the LPCB approval and listing of companies inspecting, repairing and maintaining fire and security doors, doorsets, shutters and active smoke/fire barriers.

LPS 1271 Requirements for the LPCB approval and listing of companies installing fire and security doorsets, shutters and active smoke/fire barriers.

LPS 1500 Requirements for the LPCB approval and listing of companies installing construction elements used to provide compartmentation in buildings.

LPS 2084 Requirements for the LPCB approval and listing of companies carrying out inspection, cleaning and maintenance of ductwork systems.

Copies of Loss Prevention Standards (LPS) and details of LPCB approved installers can be downloaded free of charge at: www.redbooklive.com

Summary of installers, service and maintenance LPCB standards.

Active fire protection systems

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About BRE

LPCB is part of BRE Global Limited, an independent, third party certification body providing testing and certification, with product testing and approvals of products and services carried out by its experts in world class laboratories.

BRE Global offers independent third party certification to cable manufacturers to enable them to demonstrate compliance with international fire performance standards for fire resistance, flammability, smoke emission, acidity and toxicity.

BRE Global is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for certification, testing and inspection.