

Chief Fire Officers (Scotland)

16 December 2011

Dear Chief Officer

**DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 14/2011**

**Generic Risk Assessments Approved by the Scottish Operational Guidance Board for Issue in Scotland**

**1. Background**

The Scottish Operational Guidance Board, as previously agreed, are reviewing all Generic Risk Assessments issued by the department for Communities and Local Government, making any comment as necessary, and authorising their issue in Scotland.

This DCOL(S) lists the GRAs which have now been reviewed and agreed by the Board for publication in Scotland.

**2. List of Generic Risk Assessments for Publication in Scotland**

The actual GRA document published by DCLG will not be altered. A note of any relevant comments from the Scottish Operational Guidance Board will accompany this DCOL(S) and should be reviewed in conjunction with the GRA.

3.2 High Rise Firefighting, Version 2 – September 2008 – Comments provided.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/highrise>

3.3 Fighting Fires in Domestic Chimneys

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra33>

3.7 Fighting Fires in Refuse

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra37>

4.3 Incidents Involving Transport Systems – Air – Comments provided.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra43>

5.8 Flashover, Backdraught and Fire Gas Ignitions

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra58>

5.9 Incidents Involving Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) – Comments provided.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra59>

5.10 Working at Heights – Comments provided.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/gra510>

### **3. Review of Fire and Rescue Service Policies and Procedures**

I would ask that you pass this information to relevant personnel with in your organisation to allow them to review current policies in light of these revised GRAs and associated comments.

Yours sincerely



**STEVEN TORRIE**

Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit



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**SCOTTISH FIRE SERVICES COLLEGE  
GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW  
FEEDBACK TEMPLATE: HIGH RISE GRA 3.2 2008**

**GRA No – 3.2 2008  
SUBJECT TITLE – High Rise GRA  
REVIEWER - S Cairns**

PAGE	SECTION	PARAGRAPH No	LINE No	Text /TYPE ERROR (Please Tick)	RISK CRITICAL REQUIREMENT (Please tick)	COMMENT
5	1 Key operational factors	Introduction Para 3			√	Reference to Scottish Technical Standards required as there are differences. Reference should also be made to FSA 2005 Part 3 re fire safety.
14	Bridgehead	Para 1	2		√	Insert must be set up in fresh air to safely mount an attack.
“	“ “	Para 3	3		√	Add - Not all lifts are fire lifts in some multi storey domestic premises. This must be recognised. Also they may open onto a lift floor with no compartmentation and act as part of a hallway Are we talking new build premises here or are we making assumptions that all lifts comply to BS 5499 -1? This whole GRA is confusing and should be split into domestic, hotels, shopping malls and commercial offices as they all have unique features!!
17	Issues which could impact upon Firefighters	3	3		√	Insert Firefighters <b>must</b> always work in teams with a minimum of two personnel
						No mention made of security grilles or gates on domestic high rise property and the dangers they pose to crews as

						crews may find it arduous breaking into a premise due to these. Control measure is to consider use of hydraulic rescue equipment. Also no recognition made of how FF's can recognise possible illicit drug activity such as security grilles, alarm boxes, types of door handles, wires around door leading to HV electrical shocks etc
19	Checklist Bridgehead					States set bridgehead up 1 floor below the fire ( dangerous and confusing practice in initial stages of incident). However page 14 states 2 floors below, which is it here??
						The use of the word “ <b>should</b> ” in some areas should be removed and replaced with must as this will place an absolute duty of care on personnel and authorities and ensure best practice i.e. <b>Must</b> establish bridgehead 2 floors below fire
17	Cultures	4	2			Assumptions made regarding culture and rescue of people. This statement must be revised as it could lead to prejudicial decisions on Firefighters roles and does not reflect the situation that may be presented in terms of ethnicity, sexual orientation etc. Has the GRA been impact assessed?



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GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

**FEEDBACK TEMPLATE: 4.3 Incidents involving transport systems - Air**

**GRA No – 4.3 26/9/11**

**SUBJECT TITLE – Incidents involving transport systems - Air**

**REVIEWER - G. Stewart**

I have reviewed GRA 4.3 and although not a subject matter expert, in my opinion see no risk critical errors or action required.

<b>PAGE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PARAGRAPH No</b>	<b>LINE No</b>	<b>Text /TYPE ERROR</b> (Please Tick)	<b>RISK CRITICAL REQUIREMENT</b> (Please tick)	<b>COMMENT</b>
						Throughout document reference to <b>7(2)(d) Inspections</b> - not applicable to SFRS – substitute with <b>Section 9 (2)(d)</b> for Scotland.



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**GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

**FEEDBACK TEMPLATE: Incidents involving Asbestos containing materials (ACMs) GRA 5.9**

**GRA No – 5.9 12/10/2010**

**SUBJECT TITLE – Incidents involving Asbestos containing materials (ACMs)**

**REVIEWER - Alan Robertson**

I have reviewed GRA 9 and in my opinion, although not a subject expert in ACMs, I see no risk critical errors. There is reference also that this is a merely a starting point for FRS to conduct their own assessments, produce their own Sops and SSow taking into consideration local arrangements and existing organisational arrangements.

<b>PAGE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PARAGRAPH No</b>	<b>LINE No</b>	<b>Text /TYPE ERROR</b> (Please Tick)	<b>RISK CRITICAL REQUIREMENT</b> (Please tick)	<b>COMMENT</b>
8	Key control measures	4	3			Only reference to section 7(2) (d) Fire and rescue services act 2004 and <u>not</u> of Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Will have to be revised following any subsequent amendments through Scotland Fire Reform
12	Buildings	5 Bullet point 1				Only reference to section 7(2) (d) Fire and rescue services act 2004 and <u>not</u> of Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Will have to be revised following any subsequent amendments through Scotland Fire Reform
17	2 Summary of GRA 5.9 Task on arrival- ALL		5			Reference to TB1/97 will require updating when new bulletin published

	incidents Control measures					
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**GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**  
**FEEDBACK TEMPLATE: 5.10 Working at heights**

**GRA No – 5.10 30/10/2009**

**SUBJECT TITLE – Working at heights**

**REVIEWER - A. Robertson**

I have reviewed GRA 5.10 and in my opinion, although not a subject expert I see no risk critical errors or action required. There is sufficient reference to legislation “Work at Height Regulations 2005” and the Fire and Rescue Service Manual Volume 2 Fire Service Operations (Safe Work at Height) obviously with any review in the regulations and /or manual , this generic risk assessment should also be reviewed. There is reference also that this is a merely a starting point for FRS to conduct their own assessments, produce their own Sops and SSow taking into consideration local arrangements and existing organisational arrangements.

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17	Task-pre Incident Control measures	Bullet point 4				<b><u>Reference to 7(2)(d) Inspections</u></b> .. Would this be applicable in SFRS .