

Chief Officers



30 June 2009

Dear Chief Officer

DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 7/2009

CHANGES TO BUILDING LEGISLATION IN SCOTLAND

1. This letter explains briefly some changes to building legislation in Scotland which came into effect on 1 May 2009. Chief Officers are asked to bring the changes to the attention of their fire safety enforcement officers.
2. The principal change to building legislation has been the removal of immunity from compliance with building regulations in respect of crown bodies such as Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies (though there remain some specific exemptions such as for defence and national security).
3. Further information is available on the Building Standards website www.sbsa.gov.uk including [Procedural Guidance for Crown Buildings](#).
4. One additional change has been the insertion of a revised definition of 'fire authority' in the Building (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and this change affects the consultation requirement on the local authority verifier for both Crown and non-Crown premises. Section 11 of the above guidance document contains full information on this change.
5. Fire and rescue services retain a legitimate interest in discussions on matters of operational concern to them such as water supplies, access and facilities for firefighters. Even where they may not be the fire safety enforcer for the completed building, this does not prevent fire and rescue services from having direct or indirect discussions on such issues with applicants or verifiers.

Yours faithfully



Graeme Fraser