



IBCI Conference 21/22 April 2005

A Review of Fire Regulation
Issues

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D/EHLG

Introduction

- ✦ Revision of TGD B
- ✦ The Fire Safety Certificate Process
- ✦ Revisions of Fire Services Act, 1981 in 2003
- ✦ Fire Services Change Programme

Revision of TGD B

- ★ EU CPD – removing technical barriers to trade in construction products
 - Replace existing national stds with ENs
 - Replace national Agrément Certs with ETAs for innovative products
 - Delays in achieving harmonisation of fire performance standards & testing regimes
 - Reaction to Fire
 - Resistance to Fire
- ★ BRE Input
- ★ Web-sites

TGD B - 2005

- ☀ Change to Reg B2 – rate of fire growth and resistance to ignition
- ☀ Classification of Performance
 - European classifications of resistance to fire performance
 - R — loadbearing capacity
 - E – integrity
 - I – insulation
 - Tables setting out requirements
 - Appendix Performance of Materials
 - Performance Rating of generic materials/ products

Other Amendments Proposed

- ✦ Defns/ Measurements
- ✦ Atria - BS 5588 Part 7
- ✦ Dwelling Houses
 - ✦ Open plan
 - ✦ Fire alarms
 - ✦ Windows for escape and rescue
- ✦ Services in Compartment walls and floors

The FSC Process

- ✦ Statutory Provision since 1992
- ✦ 6 – 7,000 applications pa
- ✦ In place throughout construction boom
- ✦ Intervention at design stage rather than retro-work
- ✦ Major portion of Fire services work.
- ✦ Has implicit objective of improving standard of fire safety design been achieved?

The FSC Process II

- ✦ Low level of appeals?
- ✦ Other feed-back routes?
- ✦ Impact on site?
- ✦ Safer stock of buildings?
- ✦ Consideration of options to achieve objectives?

Revisions of FSA, 1981

- ✦ Amendments included in Part III, LIEA, 2003
- ✦ Provisions of Part III commenced on 14 July 2003
- ✦ Dealing with issues which had arisen
 - ✦ Summary prosecutions by LAs
 - ✦ Withdrawal of FSNs
 - ✦ Statutory underpinning of CPs

Continuum of Enforcement Options

- ★ S 18 expanded to legislate for practice
 - Advice
 - Warnings (oral and written)
 - Recommendations (oral and written)
 - May require an assessment of premises
 - May require that works be carried out
 - May specify works and time-frame
- ★ Summary prosecution of minor offences
- ★ Closure Notice, in addition to FSN (S20) and High Court (S23) provisions

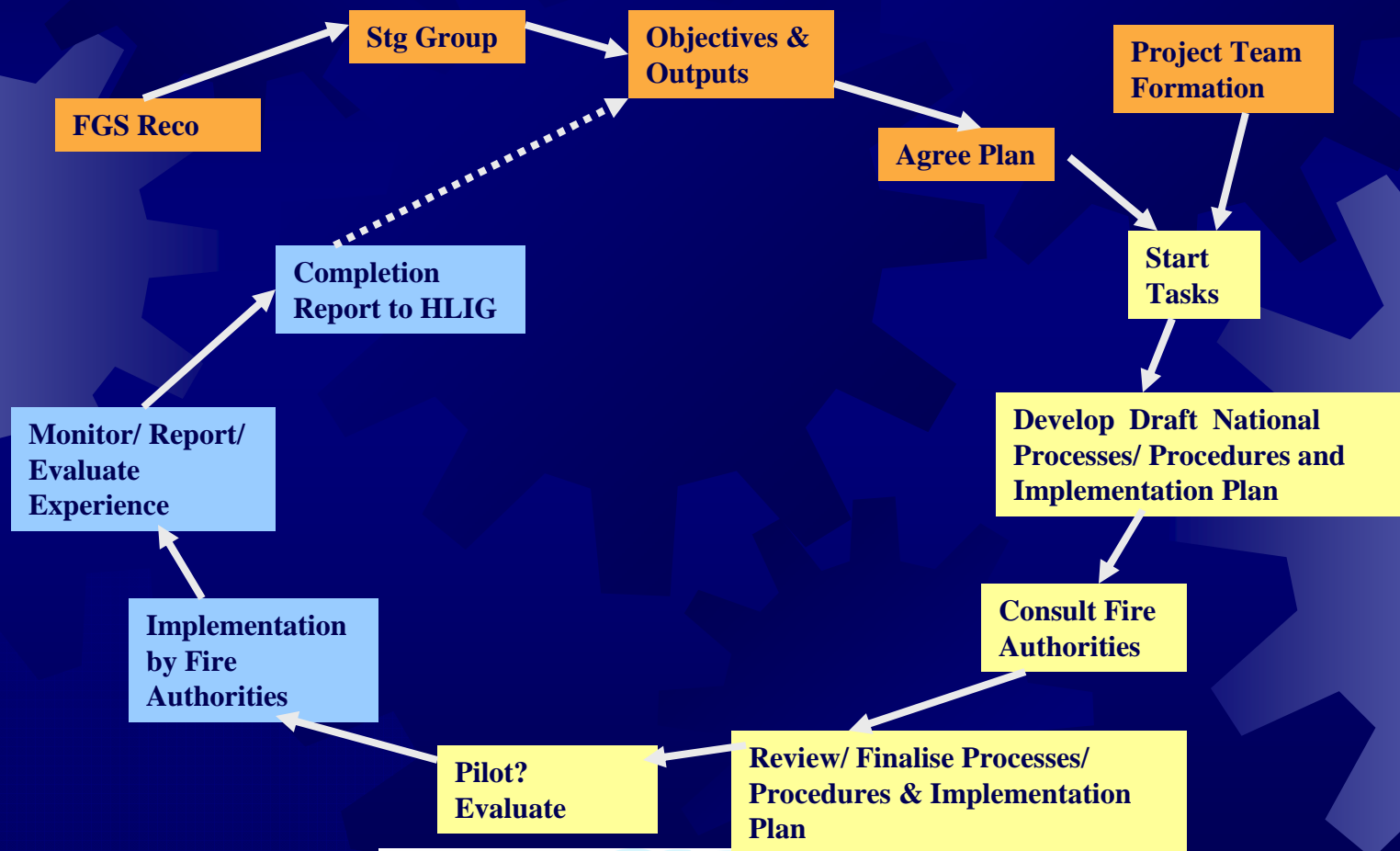
Fire Services Change Programme

- ✦ Giving effect to recommendations of FGS Review
- ✦ Taking forward four key areas –
 - ✦ CFS, RBA, Competency & S,H & W
- ✦ Implementation Structure
 - ✦ HLIG
 - ✦ Steering Groups
 - ✦ Project Team
- ✦ Development of Implementation Framework

Impact on Building Control?

- ★ FGS recommended practice of integration of Building Control and Fire Services be extended, as part of creation or “basket of related services” within local authority;
- ★ This recommendation not brought forward in Minister’s announcement of 17 Feb 05;
- ★ Manager decides.....;

The Change Process



Community Fire Safety

- ✦ Focus on Domestic Safety Issue
 - ✦ Smoke alarms
 - ✦ Safety message impact?
 - ✦ Partnerships
- ✦ Achieving safety at different stages of building life cycle
 - ✦ Concept
 - ✦ Design
 - ✦ Construction
 - ✦ Operation

Conclusion

- ✦ Significant Developments
- ✦ Inter-linked Areas
- ✦ Overview of what is happening from my perspective.
- ✦ Issues arising?