

Practice Note FSA01 – 2020

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Fire Safety Assessment Accreditation Levels and Restrictions

Version 1.0, February 2020

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Document History

Version	Status	Details	Date
1.00	Approved	Applied new branding.	February 2020

Table of Content

Introduction	1
Terminology	1
Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (sprinklers) – Fire Safety Assessment	2
Level 2 (Advanced)	2
Level 1 (Basic)	2
Fire Hydrant Systems – Fire Safety Assessment	3
Level 2 (Advanced)	3
Level 2 (Intermediate)	3
Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems – Fire Safety Assessment	4
Level 2 (Advanced)	4
Level 1 (Basic)	4

Introduction

The Fire Safety Assessment (FSA) class of accreditation under the FPAS Scheme accredits practitioners as individuals to act as a competent fire safety practitioner to undertake assessment of existing fire safety measures for the purpose of informing an annual or supplementary fire safety statement under Part 9 Division 5 and 7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

To reflect the levels of complexity that some equipment and systems can present, two levels of accreditation are available for three specific fire safety measures:

- [Automatic Fire Suppression Systems \(sprinklers\) – Fire Safety Assessment](#)
- [Fire Hydrant Systems – Fire Safety Assessment](#)
- [Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems – Fire Safety Assessment.](#)

For each fire safety measure, practitioners can select the appropriate level of work that best suits their individual needs and circumstances. Each level specifies the system types, configurations and the nature of work a practitioner at that level is accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment on, as well as any conditions that relate to the defined level.

For each fire safety system covered by the FPAS Scheme and included in this document, accredited practitioners are only accredited to undertake the work described in this document applicable to the level for which they hold accreditation. Undertaking non accredited work could be assessed as being a breach of the Code of Professional Conduct, particularly where such work is governed by legislation and this may result in a practitioner's accreditation being suspended or cancelled.

This Practice Note defines the Fire Safety Assessment work that a practitioner is accredited to undertake for the fire safety measures in this document at the available level of accreditation within the Fire Safety Assessment class of accreditation.

Terminology

- **Fire Safety Assessment (FSA)** – An accreditation that allows an individual to act as a competent fire safety practitioner to undertake assessment of the performance capability of existing essential fire safety measures for the purpose of informing an annual or supplementary fire safety statement under Part 9 Division 5 and 7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.
- **Fire safety measure** – Any measure including any item of equipment, form of construction or fire safety strategy that could be implemented in a building to ensure the safety of persons using the building in the event of fire.
- **Performance (alternative) solutions** – A method of complying with the Building Code of Australia performance requirements other than by a Deemed-to-Satisfy Solution.

Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (sprinklers) – Fire Safety Assessment

Level 2 (Advanced)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of any automatic fire suppression system (sprinklers) subject to specific conditions

Accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of any automatic fire suppression system other than combined sprinkler and hydrant systems unless:

- the practitioner also holds Level 1 (Basic) [Fire Hydrant Systems – Fire Safety Assessment](#) accreditation in order to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of combined sprinkler and hydrant systems.

Level 1 (Basic)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of a restricted range of automatic fire suppression systems that include less complex hydraulic or hazard protection considerations

Accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of automatic fire suppression systems, excluding:

- Systems that include multiple pressure zones
- Combined sprinkler and hydrant systems
- High hazard sprinkler systems including those that protect:
 - high hazard process risks
 - high hazard storage risks
 - special commodities
 - flammable and combustible liquids or other dangerous goods.

Fire Hydrant Systems – Fire Safety Assessment

Level 2 (Advanced)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of any fire hydrant system subject to specific conditions.

Accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of any fire hydrant system other than combined sprinkler and hydrant systems unless:

- the practitioner also holds [Level 1 \(Basic\) Automatic Fire Suppression Systems \(sprinklers\) – Fire Safety Assessment](#) accreditation in order to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of combined sprinkler and hydrant systems.

Level 2 (Intermediate)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of a restricted range of fire hydrant systems that include less complex hydraulic considerations subject to specific conditions.

Accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of fire hydrant systems, excluding:

- Systems that include multiple pressure zones
- Combined sprinkler and hydrant systems.

Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems – Fire Safety Assessment

Level 2 (Advanced)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of any automatic fire detection and alarm system.

No restriction on scope of automatic fire detection and alarm system Fire Safety Assessment.

Level 1 (Basic)

Practitioners at this level are accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of a restricted range of automatic fire detection and alarm systems, generally limited to systems that do not provide multiple programmable outputs to control interfaces associated with a range of complex systems.

Accredited to undertake Fire Safety Assessment of automatic fire detection and alarm systems, excluding:

- systems that provide multiple programmable outputs to control interfaces with any or all of the following:
 - emergency warning and intercommunication systems (EWIS) or customised building occupant warning systems
 - zoned fire suppression systems
 - zone pressurisation systems
 - purge systems
 - smoke exhaust systems or smoke vents and heat vents
 - automatic air pressurisation systems including those for lift shafts and pressurised exits
 - associated ancillary equipment including dampers, fans, louvres, automatic opening doors and the like
 - fire and/or smoke curtains, fire and/or smoke shutters (where required for mechanical air handling systems).

Note: Automatic fire detection and alarm systems, controlling single zone occupant warning systems, single zone door releases, fire monitoring, etc. can be assessed under Level 1 (Basic) Automatic fire detection and systems – Fire Safety Assessment accreditation.

Restrictions or considerations applicable to all accredited practitioners

Performance (alternative) solutions

Note: Individuals accredited in the Fire Safety Assessment class for individual or multiple fire safety measures are accredited to assess the operating performance of these fire safety measures regardless of whether they are subject to a performance (alternative) solution or not.