

What does the future hold for Fire Safety in high-rise buildings?



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A chartered electronics engineer with over 40 years experience in Emergency Lighting and Fire Detection and Alarm systems.

His main expertise has been in product design, both circuit and system levels, but, until recently, he has served on many UK and European standards committees, as both chairman and technical expert. He has also been active within appropriate trade association technical committees. He currently runs an engineering consultancy company specialising in electronic design, technical support and training.

Following the Grenfell Tower fire, the public enquiry and the Hackitt independent review, it is clear that significant changes will be required in the construction industry in the future. Some might consider that the changes are not before time, others will be concerned at the impact on costs and competitiveness which are likely to be experienced at least in the medium term.

The first big change will be the requirement for contractors to be able to demonstrate competence. Specifications are likely to be tighter and there will be the need to ensure that all aspects of the buildings construction, integrity and safety systems have been fully considered and documented.



There has been much talk of the 'golden thread' that will be required over the life of buildings in the future, and many are hoping that technology and the 'digital world' will assist in this.

We are already seeing a huge change in the cost of PII insurance, with many companies refusing to consider anything that is connected with building cladding and similar technologies.

Consulting a compliance expert will ensure that you comply with the design, installation and ongoing maintenance requirements of a system.

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