



Bridges 2, The Fire Service College
London Road
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire GL56 0RH
Tel: +44 (0)844 335 0897
Fax: +44 (0)1608 653359
E-mail: info@bafe.org.uk
Website: www.bafe.org.uk



LPCB
Bucknalls Lane
Garston
Herts WD25 9XX
Tel: +44 (0)1923 664100
Fax: +44 (0)1923 664910
E-mail: enquiries@lpcb.com
Website: www.redbooklive.com

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To interested parties

The following is a joint LPCB and BAFE position statement with regard to the LPS 1014 and SP203-1 schemes for Fire Alarm company approvals.

Both of these schemes are aimed at ensuring that companies responsible for the design, installation, commissioning and servicing of fire alarms systems are competent and meet the current system standards.

LPS 1014

LPS 1014 is operated by LPCB (part of BRE Global Limited) and was launched in 1993. It requires single point responsibility for the design, installation and commissioning of fire alarm systems. To be eligible to apply for LPS 1014 certification, a company must have at least two years experience in the fire alarm systems industry and must have installed at least 8 fire alarm systems. Companies that do not meet this criteria can apply for provisional approval, a recent addition to the LPS 1014 scheme. Provisional approval offers a route into the LPS 1014 scheme for companies that have a limited track record when applying. Provisionally approved companies are closely monitored until they meet the criteria for full approval. All companies joining the LPS 1014 scheme must prove their competence to design, install (using either sub-contractors or own staff), commission and service fire alarm systems. LPS 1014 approved companies are required to issue LPS 1014 Certificates of Conformity for each fire alarm system that they install. The LPS 1014 scheme recognizes that not all elements of a contract are placed with the fire alarm company. In such cases, an LPS 1014 Certificates of Conformity can be issued providing the LPS 1014 company inspects and verifies the elements of the contract that they have not undertaken themselves. Because the LPS 1014 scheme model includes random sampling of completed fire alarm systems, companies must operate an effective quality management system complying with BS EN ISO 9001. LPS 1014 is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). LPS 1014 has been developed and is maintained by a technical committee made up of representatives from insurers, industry trade organizations, end users groups and the fire service, to ensure that the LPS 1014 scheme is impartial and robust and meets its key objective to provide quality and compliant fire alarm systems to end users. LPS 1014 is a BAFE adopted scheme with the designation SP201. LPS 1014 approved companies are listed in the BRE Global's Red Book which can be viewed at www.redbooklive.com.

BAFE SP203-1

SP203-1 is operated by UKAS accredited certification bodies licensed by BAFE and was launched in 2002. It is a modular scheme enabling companies to gain approval for one or all of four modules: system design, installation, commissioning and handover and maintenance. Over three-quarters of SP203-1 companies are registered to all four modules. The BAFE website will show companies in SP203 clearly indicating the modules to which they have been certified. SP 203-1 was put together by an expert group drawn from the industry, certification bodies, fire and rescue services and other stakeholders, to ensure that it is independent and robust. The scheme document is regularly monitored and updated to ensure it meets the latest Industry standards. It is currently delivered by five UKAS accredited 3rd Party Certification Bodies who audit companies annually; including random sampling of installed systems to ensure end users receive quality and compliant fire alarm systems. Although the scheme does not specify ISO 9001, it does demand an effective quality management system and many of the registered companies do have ISO9001 and registered companies will issue Certificates of Conformity where they have carried out all the work on a system. It is also a requirement of the scheme that components used are third party certificated. Prices for certification are determined by each individual certification body, who can also contribute to the monitoring and updating of the scheme to reflect developments in standards and technology.

We hope that this statement provides the information that you require. If you or your client wishes to discuss this any further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Adams
Chief Executive
BAFE Ltd



Graham Orme
Director
LPCB

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