



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS  
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## Changes to IFE Qualifications in 2021

### Introduction

The IFE has made changes to the structure of some qualifications. The changes take effect in 2021 examinations.

### Level 3 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety

### Level 4 Certificate in Fire Science and Fire Safety (now re-named the IFE Level 4 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety)

In order to achieve these qualifications, candidates must achieve four separate components. Previously the components were presented as “units” within the structure. From 2021, each of the units is presented as a separate qualification.

The IFE has made this change because many candidates choose to complete a selection of units rather than completing the full Level 3 Diploma or Level 4 Certificate qualification. This has created confusion as the unit achievement was far in excess of the number of people completing the full qualification and many candidates were not aware that their achievement was part of a bigger qualification.

***Although the individual components are presented as separate qualifications rather than as units from 2021, the content and assessment for each new qualification is exactly the same as it was for the previous unit. The replacement qualifications are equivalent in every way, to the previous unit format.***

Please see the information on IFE qualification syllabuses on the website - <https://www.ife.org.uk/IFE-Qualifications-with-Syllabus-Links> All previous units now show as qualifications eg Unit 1, Fire Engineering Science of the Level 3 Diploma now appears as the IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Engineering Science whilst Unit 1, Fire Engineering Science of the Level 4 Certificate now appears as the IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Engineering Science.

### What has changed?

- Units are now presented as qualifications
- Candidates who achieve units will receive a certificate that shows their achievement as a full qualification rather than as a unit of a bigger qualification
- The title of the Level 4 Certificate in Fire Science and Fire Safety has changed to the Level 4 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety – this reflects the extensive range of study required to achieve four units/qualifications
- Recommended reading material is now presented in the relevant syllabus booklet rather than on a general reading list.

### What hasn't changed?

- The subject matter covered by the new qualifications is exactly the same as the content contained in the former unit presentation
- All qualifications are assessed by one 3-hour examination in the same way as before – all past papers remain valid for learning purposes as the new qualifications assess the same content in the same way
- Achievement of the Diplomas at Level 3 and Level 4 will remain as challenging as previously as the same components of content must be achieved in the same way.
- All recommended reading remains the same
- The fee structure remains the same
- Achievement of the new qualifications can be used and combined in exactly the same way as in the former unit model when learners work towards a full Diploma at level 3 or level 4. **Note: unit and qualification achievement is directly equivalent and interchangeable**

A summary of name changes for Level 3 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety components follows:

<b>Unit Name pre-2021</b>	<b>Qualification name from 2021</b>
L3D1 - Unit 1: Fire Engineering Science	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Engineering Science
L3D2 - Unit 2: Fire Safety	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Safety
L3D4 – Unit 3: Aviation Fire Operations	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Aviation Fire Operations
L3D5 - Unit 5: Leadership and Management	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management
L3D6 – Unit 6: Fire Service Operations and Incident Command	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Service Operations and Incident Command
L3D7 – Unit 7: Fire Investigation	IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Investigation

A summary of name changes for Level 4 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety components follows:

<b>Unit Name pre-2021</b>	<b>Qualification name from 2021</b>
L4C1 - Unit 1: Fire Engineering Science	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Engineering Science
L4C2 - Unit 2: Fire Safety	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Safety
L4C3 – Unit 3: Fire Service Operations and Incident Command	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Service Operations and Incident Command
L4C4 – Unit 4: Aviation Fire Operations	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Aviation Fire Operations
L4C5 - Unit 5: Leadership and Management	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Leadership and Management
L4C6 – Unit 6: Fire Investigation	IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Investigation
L4C7 – Unit 7: Civil Emergency and Disaster Management	No longer available. Unit 7 was withdrawn following the 2019 examinations

## **Presentation of Examination Papers and Answer Books**

The change from unit status to qualification status has led to some minor changes in the presentation of examination paper front covers and also to the corresponding answer book front covers. The changes reflect the new titling whereby unit numbers have been replaced by a title reflecting the new status as a standalone qualification; other than titling, the documents follow the existing format.

The colour-coding that was previously in place for the former unit examinations remains the same for the equivalent new qualification examinations ie pale green examination paper with pale green front cover for the corresponding answer book for Level 3 papers; pale yellow examination paper with pale yellow front cover for the corresponding answer book for the Level 4 papers.

The main change is that examination papers and answer books no longer make reference to the Level 3 Diploma in Fire Science and Fire Safety or the Level 4 Certificate in Fire Science and Fire Safety.

The former unit coding has been retained on the examination papers in order to provide continuity with the previous format and to aid navigation through the new presentation.

## **The IFE Level 3 Certificate in Fire Science, Operations, Fire Safety and Management – Examination Format**

The structure of the unit examinations needed to achieve this qualification has changed. Previously examination papers comprised 15 multiple choice questions and then short answer questions (providing 35 marks). A total of 50 marks were available. The pass mark was set at 50%. From 2021, all examinations comprise short answer questions only ie the multiple choice questions have been removed. 50 marks will be available for the short answer questions and the pass mark will remain at 50%.

The new format examination papers are made up of six questions (with sub-parts). The questions are aligned to specific sections of the syllabus and the section is shown on the examination paper. Sample examination papers for the new examination format are available on the IFE website.

There are no changes to syllabus content so the learning topics and reading material remains unchanged. The examiner reports on the short answer section of examinations remain valid and continue to be recommended to all candidates as learning material.

The answer book that corresponds to these papers is printed on white paper (as per the examination papers). The format has changed as the multiple choice grid is no longer needed. All questions are mandatory so candidates do not need to show the questions that they have answered on the front cover of the answer book.

## **Further information**

Please see the revised syllabuses on the IFE website - <https://www.ife.org.uk/IFE-Qualifications-with-Syllabus-Links>

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