

## 8 Tips for choosing a competent Fire Risk Assessor

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London Fire Brigade believes that following a few simple steps can ensure you have a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and that people will be protected from fire.

If you are an employer or occupy or have some managerial responsibility over any non-domestic premises, then you will be probably legally obliged – as per the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 – to conduct a fire-risk assessment.

Even if you do appoint an external fire-risk assessor you, as the responsible person, can still be held accountable if mistakes are made. Although you are not expected to be an expert in fire safety, you should make reasonable checks to ensure that they are adequately qualified and experienced.

In small, low-risk premises you may be able to do the fire-risk assessment yourself, but if not and you are looking to employ someone else then it is wise to follow these steps.

1. Ensure they are on a **professional register** and that they meet the **competency criteria** established by the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council
2. Check that they have **experience** of undertaking fire-risk assessments for your kind of business and premises
3. Request **references** from previous clients in premises of your type
4. Ensure that the **scope** of the work you want carried out is agreed in
5. Ensure that you provide the assessor with **access** to all areas and information
6. Obtain alternative comparable **quotes**
7. Ask for proof that they have sufficient **insurances**
8. Keep **records** of the steps you took in selecting your fire risk

*For more information on fire-risk assessments visit <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireRiskAssessment.asp>*