

FAQs – Advanced Fire Risk Assessment to BS 8674:2025

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1) Why do I need this qualification?

The aim of this qualification is to provide candidates with the opportunity to achieve a regulated qualification that evidences the skills, knowledge and experience required to competently undertake Advanced level FRAs.

The qualification's objective is to allow candidates to successfully undertake the role of Advanced fire risk assessor. It is suitable for candidates who wish to develop a deeper set of skills and knowledge, thereby allowing them to competently identify hazards and situations that could lead to fires in higher-risk buildings and premises. This includes reviewing existing fire safety measures and where necessary the creation of recommendations to mitigate the risk of fire.

This qualification provides the final (BS 8674:2025) step in the fire risk assessor learning and development pathway where, career progression follows three core competency levels namely, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced, in line with guidance provided in BS 8674:2025.

2) Will I be competent to undertake fire risk assessments after I have completed the course?

The course provides an underpinning framework for an assessor to undertake a fire risk assessment for higher-risk premises. It should be noted that competence is an ongoing process, and methods and sources of information to enhance the competency levels of assessors will be discussed during the course.

Competence of individual fire risk assessors is defined in BS 8674:2025. Extracts from the British Standard are listed below (for full details please refer to the published document).

Foundation level competence/low fire risk premises

The following factors typically characterize low fire risk premises.

a) Occupancy:

- 1) low occupancy level of around 60;
- 2) often a single person or family, or having low staff numbers;
- 3) occupants who are very familiar with the premises layout; and
- 4) occasional visitors, such as friends or customers.

b) Use:

- 1) common parts of small multi-occupied buildings (such as converted houses and HMOs) and residential apartments;
- 2) small offices and retail or commercial enterprises;
- 3) small public venues such as village halls; and
- 4) open, internally undivided small warehouses and production buildings.

Intermediate level competence/moderate fire risk premises

The following factors typically characterize intermediate fire risk premises.

a) Occupancy:

- 1) medium occupancy level of up to 500 persons;

- 2) temporary or transient residents; and
- 3) occasional visitors unfamiliar with the premises layout.

b) Use:

- 1) common parts of multi-occupied private and commercial residences, hotels and boarding houses, shops and offices, multi-occupied offices in retail premises, commercial enterprises, and retail shopping centres with multi-tenanted areas;
- 2) general warehousing, manufacturing and production enterprises not engaged with dangerous goods storage or use;
- 3) most single- or two-storey general technical learning and educational premises; and
- 4) entertainment and licensed public entertainment venues with an audience size up to 500.

Advance level competence/higher-risk premises

The skills expected of a fire risk assessor at Advanced level are those of Foundation level and Intermediate level, together with buildings beyond these scopes.

3) Does the course align with BS 9792:2025 Fire risk assessment - Housing - Code of practice

This course is delivered using the principles in PAS 79-1 and is not specifically housing related. The same principles apply in BS 9792:2025.

4) If I undertake the Advanced course, am I also qualified for moderate and low-risk premises?

Yes.

5) Will I be qualified to undertake fire risk assessments after I have completed the course?

Whilst there is currently no legally required formal qualification for fire risk assessors, this course provides a qualification that is recognised by the fire industry for higher-risk premises.

Certain accredited schemes for fire risk assessments, such as BAFE SP 205, will require formal qualifications by March 2028. Therefore, many companies will wish to ensure relevant staff have this in place for this, to ensure continuity of accreditation and to meet client requirements.

6) I am new to fire risk assessments; can I still enrol on the course? Are there any prerequisites?

No, you can't enrol on this course. The Advanced FRA Course is for candidates who have previously completed the FireQual Intermediate Fire Risk Assessment to BS 8674:2025 (or an equivalent Fire Risk Assessment/Fire Safety qualification) or have been working in fire safety and carrying out fire risk assessments, of at least a moderate-risk premises for a minimum of 12 months and are experienced well adverse in all the qualification criteria areas

7) I am an experienced fire risk assessor within the industry. Do I need to attend the entire course?

We are currently providing an Experienced Worker Route (EWR) for those who are already working at the advanced level. The requirements for the EWR will be based on the answers provided within a questionnaire. If you would like to know more about the EWR please contact training@cstodd.co.uk.

8) Can I undertake fire risk assessments in Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as England after I have completed the course?

Whilst the England and Wales course provides the basic framework required to carry out a fire risk assessment, it does not cover the specific legislation applicable to Scotland and Northern Ireland. If candidates want to undertake assessments in these areas of the UK, they would need to apprise themselves with the different legislation, as applicable, or, for Scotland, attend our Scottish training days.

9) I am attending from Northern Ireland. Which course should I undertake?

It is strongly recommended that you attend the Scottish training days, due to the similarities between the relevant legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

If you book the Scottish course, you will receive a hard copy of the Scottish notes when attending the training day. However, you can request an electronic copy of the Northern Ireland notes, which will be sent approximately one week before the training day (any printing is your responsibility).

If you book the English training days, you will receive a hard copy of the English notes when attending the training day. However, you can request an electronic copy of the Northern Ireland notes, which will be sent approximately one week before the training day (any printing is your responsibility).

10) Can I select any dates for the training?

If you are undertaking the Level 8 Qualification in Scotland, it is recommended you select the Scotland training days.

If you are undertaking the Level 5 Qualification, you can select any of the England and Wales training days.

11) What is covered on the One-Day Training on Purpose-Built Blocks of Flats?

This one-day training provides a comprehensive overview of fire safety management in purpose-built blocks of flats, focusing on the latest legislation, guidance and best practice following the lessons learned from incidents such as Lakanal House and Grenfell Tower. Candidates gain an understanding of how modern fire safety requirements apply to residential buildings and how to undertake and review fire risk assessments in accordance with current guidance and standards

12) What is covered on the Fire Engineered Solutions and Calculations training day?

This one-day training develops an understanding of how building design, construction methods and ongoing maintenance influence fire safety. It covers regulatory compliance, fire engineered solutions, active and passive fire protection systems, environmental considerations and the role of the Advanced Fire Risk Assessor in supporting safe and compliant buildings. Practical exercises will enable candidates to confidently assess occupancy numbers based on the number and availability of exits, the number and widths of staircases and how original occupancy numbers would have been estimated.

13) What is covered on the Hospitals and Public Assembly training day?

This one-day training examines two specialist fire risk assessment environments with very different fire safety challenges. Healthcare premises focus on protecting vulnerable and dependent patients who may require assistance to evacuate, while public assembly premises focus on safely managing large numbers of occupants who may be unfamiliar with the building. Candidates will develop an understanding of legislation, fire safety management, evacuation strategies, fire protection systems and risk assessment methodologies applicable to both sectors.

This module equips delegates with the basic knowledge and skills required to undertake fire risk assessments in hospitals, healthcare facilities and public assembly venues. Candidates will learn how to assess vulnerable occupants, manage large numbers of visitors, evaluate evacuation strategies and review fire protection measures to ensure safe and effective fire safety management within complex, high-occupancy buildings

14) What is covered on the Schools, Heritage & Churches training day?

This training provides candidates with the knowledge and skills required to undertake fire risk assessments in educational and heritage premises, two environments that present unique fire safety challenges. The programme explores the legislative framework, fire risk assessment methodologies, occupancy characteristics, fire protection systems, means of escape and fire safety management arrangements applicable to both building types. Candidates will learn how to assess schools and educational facilities where large numbers of occupants, behavioural factors and arson risks influence fire safety, alongside heritage and listed buildings where historic construction, conservation requirements and the protection of irreplaceable assets must be carefully balanced with life safety objectives. The course also examines compartmentation, fire detection and alarm systems, evacuation strategies, management controls and the development of practical, proportionate and evidence-based fire safety recommendations for complex premises.

15) What is the Legislation & Enforcement with Legal Case Studies section of the qualification?

This training video uses real-world fire incidents, inquiries and legal case studies to demonstrate how fire safety legislation operates in practice. Candidates will gain a practical understanding of fire risk assessment, legal compliance, fire safety management, expert witness responsibilities and lessons learned from significant fires, enabling them to undertake more robust, defensible and effective fire risk assessments

16) What is covered on the Specialised Housing, Residential Care and Hotel Sleeping Risks training day?

This training provides candidates with a comprehensive understanding of fire risk assessment and fire safety management within specialised housing, residential care environments and hotel sleeping accommodation. The programme explores the legislative framework, fire risk assessment methodologies, evacuation strategies and fire protection measures required to protect vulnerable residents, guests and occupants who may be asleep, unfamiliar with the building or require assistance to evacuate. Candidates will examine the impact of resident dependency, staffing levels, person-centred fire risk assessments, means of escape, compartmentation, fire detection and alarm systems, and the role of effective management arrangements in reducing fire risk. The course also covers common hazards such as smoking, cooking, electrical systems, mobility scooters, lithium-ion batteries and housekeeping, enabling learners to identify risks and develop proportionate, evidence-based fire safety recommendations for a range of sleeping risk premises.

17) Do I have to attend the training in a specific order?

No. You can attend the training days in any order depending on your availability.

18) What is the Experienced Worker Route (EWR)?

An Experienced Worker Route (EWR) is available for candidates that have been working in fire safety and carrying out fire risk assessments, of at least moderate-risk premises for a minimum of 12 months and are well versed in all the qualification criteria areas. If you believe you meet these requirements, please contact training@cstodd.co.uk for an EWR questionnaire and more information.

19) If I undergo the EWR, can I attend other training days for continued professional development (CPD)?

Yes. All of the training days are available for CPD if desired. These are booked individually and separate from the qualification. Please email training@cstodd.co.uk for more information.

20) Will there be an assessment after any of the training days?

You will be provided a workbook to answers questions during each day and at the end of each training day you will be asked several multiple-choice questions. There is not a written assessment paper for each day, but your understanding will be assessed during your professional interview. Following the one-day training on Purpose-Built Blocks of Flats you will be required to complete a virtual fire risk assessment. [See question 35](#) for more information on the virtual fire risk assessment.

21) What are the timings of the training days?

Each training day, whether virtual or in-person starts at 9am, finishing at approximately 5.30pm. The Legal and Case Example is a video which is to be watched in your own time. Suitable refreshment and lunch breaks are provided throughout the day and refreshments and food are provided during the in-person training days.

For the virtual days, we suggest you log on or join ten minutes early to the training session to ensure you have no IT issues, and the training will not be delayed.

22) Is the virtual training pre-recorded or live?

The virtual training is delivered live by one of our trainers and is not pre-recorded. If you are unable to attend a scheduled virtual training day, please provide at least 24 hours' notice. Please note that more than one cancellation may incur a fee before an alternative training date can be confirmed.

23) How many CPD hours is the in-person training?

You will receive 6 hours CPD for each full day of training day.

24) What arrangements are there for candidates with special needs?

As a training provider, the Equality Act 2010 places a positive obligation on C.S. Todd & Associates (CSTA) to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that learners who are disabled (as defined in the Act) are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to non-disabled learners. The duty arises in relation to any:

- service provision, criterion or practice
- physical features particular to the service
- provision of auxiliary aids or support.

Full consideration will be given to each adjustment to determine whether it:

- reduces or removes the disadvantage faced by the disabled individual; and
- it is reasonable for CSTA to make.

As part of our ongoing commitment, CSTA will undertake periodic reviews of agreed adjustments to ensure these remain suitable and have the continued required effect. The outcome of any review may be that the adjustment in place continues, is altered, or alternative adjustments are introduced.

25) Can I pay in instalments?

No. Full prepayment is required at least four weeks prior to the course commencement date.

26) Is the course part refundable if I don't follow the regulated qualification route?

No. If you only intend to take part in some elements of the training course you will not be refunded for the days you miss.

27) Will this course be offered again?

C.S. Todd & Associates aim to run this course throughout the year. Details can be found on our website, or by contacting us at training@cstodd.co.uk.

28) Is this course offered closer to where I live?

The in-person training element of this course will be based in Surrey during 2026 and also in all likelihood in Edinburgh in 2027. Full venue details can be found on our website, or by contacting us at training@cstodd.co.uk.

29) How long before the course begins do I need to register?

Registration and payment of this course is required no later than four weeks prior to the course commencement date.

30) What materials will I need to bring to the in-person training?

A hard copy of the course notes and presentation is provided, as well as a number of other training materials. You should bring black pens and a notebook.

31) How is the course assessed and accredited

The course is assessed against a set of learning outcomes, in the form of virtual training, in-person training and submission of 'a portfolio of evidence'. The final stage is to undergo a professional interview with one of our trainers via Microsoft Teams.

32) What forms part of my portfolio of evidence?

You are required to submit two fire risk assessments of at the appropriate level (higher-risk), completed in your own time, at suitable premises. These fire risk assessments need to be redacted before submission. [See question 34.](#) In addition, you are required to undertake a virtual fire risk assessment. [See question 35.](#)

33) Do my fire risk assessments have to be completed using the PAS 79 template?

No. You are able to use a template of your choice as long as it covers all the required sections within a fire risk assessment. However, the PAS 79 templates are the industry standard and are endorsed by the NFCC. The PAS 79 templates are available to download, for free, on our website ([PAS-79 Templates - C. S. Todd & Associates](#))

34) What should I redact before submitting my fire risk assessments?

We request you remove all personal information that will identify the building or the company/client. This will include names (this could include company names or titles as well as individual names), addresses, phone numbers and email addresses (if applicable).

35) What is a virtual fire risk assessment?

As part of your qualification, you are required to complete a fire risk assessment based on a premises within our virtual assessment platform. You will be required to attend a short, up to one-hour online meeting which will provide instructions in the use of and the requirements of the software. Following the meeting you will receive a link to visit the premises virtually and you are required to complete a fire risk assessment. Any questions required to complete the fire risk assessment are to be emailed to training@cstodd.co.uk. Once you have completed your fire risk assessment, in written format on a template of your choice, you must submit it to training@cstodd.co.uk for marking. This will make up part of your portfolio of evidence.

36) What is a professional interview?

The professional interview is the final stage of your portfolio of evidence. This will be conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.

The professional interview will be with one or two of our assessors and last a maximum of two hours. The discussion will assess your overall understanding of the concepts of legal, regulatory and enforcement practices, and the methods and practices to undertake a fire risk assessment within higher-risk premises. You will require photographic ID to be shown to the assessor(s) as part of the interview process.

The professional interview will be recorded and transcribed, which will be stored on our system. The interview transcript will be stored for up to seven years, whereas the recording will be destroyed after one year. In addition, the transcript and recording could be subject to auditing by FireQual. Please note that you must have a working camera on the device that is used, and this must be switched on for the duration of the interview.

The assessor(s) will discuss your portfolio of evidence and go through the processes you used to undertake your fire risk assessments. The discussion will cover your decision-making process to contextualise your learning, which will allow you to demonstrate your full understanding of the fire risk assessment process. This may include questions relating to your decision-making process with regard to the submitted fire risk assessments. Your discussion may include how you quantified risk and standards you have applied. It is suggested that you have copies of your course notes and the redacted fire risk assessments whilst you attend the professional interview.

If you attend the confirmed appointment and your camera or IT does not work, there will be a charge to reschedule the appointment. This will need paying prior to a new date being confirmed.

37) How long do I have to complete the course?

Candidates have two years from the commencement of their training to complete the course and submit their portfolios of evidence. This is inclusive of the professional interview.

38) What happens if I am unsuccessful?

If you fail to meet the criteria on the qualification, you have the option to begin the referral process. During this process you will be offered a mentoring session with one of our assessors. Normally, this involves a discussion of around one to two hours, in which each area of misunderstanding is carefully considered. Following this process, the candidate is offered the opportunity to participate in submission of an additional document or attendance on another professional interview after some self-study.

Only two mentoring sessions are included within the fee of the course (these are delivered only if the assessors have advised one is required). If any additional mentoring is required, this is chargeable and will be quoted at the time of request.

39) Will my qualification need to be updated?

No formal update of the qualification is required, although it is incumbent on the candidate to carry out regular CPD activities. The course will cover these activities and suggested methods of how to record this.

There is a requirement to undertake regular re-assessments conducted by any professional bodies with which you may register.

40) Is there an appeals process?

If you are dissatisfied with a qualification outcome, you have the right of appeal. There are three stages to the appeal procedure, and each stage must be exhausted before proceeding to the next stage. You are advised to keep copies of all the documents used in the appeal procedure as it progresses.

For more information on the appeals process, please visit the policies section on our website.

Glossary of Terms

BS:	British Standard
CPD:	Continuing Professional Development
CSTA:	C.S. Todd & Associates Limited
FireQual:	Awarding organization providing nationally recognised regulated qualifications
HMO:	House in Multiple Occupation
NFCC:	National Fire Chiefs Council
PAS 79-1:2020:	Fire risk assessment. Premises other than housing. Code of practice.
PAS 79-2:2020:	Fire risk assessment. Housing. Code of practice.