



NSAI

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**NSAI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
NSAI TC 16 – FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE (FSSC)**

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1 Chairman's Statement

I'm delighted to share the 2021 annual report with our stakeholders. Over the past year the FSSC working groups have made great progress on delivering National Standards on Fire Safety. I look forward to continuing to work with the committee in 2022.

- Michael Slattery, FSSC Chairperson

2 Introduction

The Fire Safety Standards Committee (FSSC) is the committee that steers Fire Safety Standardization. The FSSC advise on what standards and codes of practice are necessary for products and processes in all aspects of fire safety.

3 Scope of TC

- To advise the NSAI with regard to Irish Standards and Codes of Practice concerning all aspects of fire safety including Passive Fire Protection, Active Fire Protection, Fire Service Equipment and Fire Safety of Furniture & Fittings and to make recommendations as required.
- To draft appropriate documentation including Standards, Codes of Practice, and Amendments as necessary.
- To ensure that interested parties are consulted in the drafting of these standards and codes of practice.
- To liaise with similar bodies in other EU countries and in particular CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) and ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation).
- To advise NSAI on how to vote on draft European and International Standards in the area of fire safety.

4 Structure and Membership

4.1 Structure

The FSSC has set up a number of Working Groups to deal with specific areas of Fire Safety. These groups have a Chairman and develop standards and recommend voting positions on International Standards. The groups report back to the FSSC at regular intervals and advise the FSSC on current developments

The working groups are:

- Fire Safety in Buildings (Standby)
- Fire Alarms
- Fire Services Equipment
- Fire Safety of Furniture & Textiles (Standby)
- Emergency Lighting

The Figure below illustrates the structure of the Committee:



4.2 Members

The membership of the FSSC in 2021 included;

- Michael Slattery Associates (MSA) (Chair)
- Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage
- Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)
- OPW
- HSE Estates
- Chairperson's of the various working groups
- Association of specialist fire protection (ASFP)
- Fire Industry Association of Ireland (FIAI)

Membership of the various working groups is drawn from representatives of:

- Local Fire Authorities
- Government Departments
- NSAI
- Consultants
- Manufacturers
- Major users
- Industry Representative Groups
- Professional bodies
- Government Agencies (e.g. OPW)

5 Summary of 2020 Activities

5.1 National

5.1.1 Meetings

Committee members attended the following national meetings in NSAI as follows:

| Meeting No. | Date | Minutes Reference |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 30 March 2021 | N0533 |
| 2 | 14 September 2021 | N0536 |

In addition, working groups 2, 3 and 5 met on a number of occasions (approx. 20 meetings total) to progress the development of Irish Standards they are responsible for.

5.1.2 National Work

Each of the FSSC working Groups has a Chairperson and some develop standards. National work items in 2021 included;

- 4th edition of I.S. 3218 - Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings - System design, installation, servicing and maintenance
- 4th edition of I.S. 3217 – Code of Practice for Emergency Lighting
- Amendment No. 1 to I.S. 291:2015 - Selection, commissioning, installation, inspection and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers

5.2 International/Regional

5.2.1 Meetings

Committee members attended international CEN meetings as follows:

| Committee Name | Location | Date | No. of Attendees |
|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| CEN TC169 WG3 | Virtual | Various | 1 |
| CEN TC70 | Virtual | 7+8 October | 2 |
| CEN TC70 WG5 | Virtual | Various | 1 |
| CEN TC72 | Virtual | 14+15 October | 2 |
| CEN TC 72 | Virtual | 21+22 April | 1 |
| CLC TC34 WG1 | Virtual | Various | 1 |

5.2.2 International/Regional Work

Each FSSC working group recommend voting positions on International Standards in their respective fields. Within the active working groups there is strong engagement with our international counterparts.

Documents published in 2021 that included direct input from Irish experts included;

- EN 3-8:2021 - *Portable fire extinguishers - Part 8: Requirements for the construction, pressure resistance and mechanical tests for extinguishers with a maximum allowable pressure equal to or lower than 30 bar, which comply with the requirements of EN 3-7*

5.2.3 International/Regional Standards Reviewed

International Standards reviewed by the various working groups are too numerous to list. Documents of high importance are as follows;

- EN 3 Series of Standards on Portable Fire Extinguishers
- EN 54 Series of Standards on Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems
- EN 1838 - Lighting applications - Emergency lighting
- EN 50172 - Emergency escape lighting systems
- EN 12845 series of Standards on Automatic Sprinkler Systems

Note: This list is non-exhaustive

5.2.4 International/Regional Voting Results

International and regional committees mirrored by FSSC working groups launched approx. 130 ballots in 2021. NSAI actively voted on approx. 7% of these ballots.

5.3 Regulatory Development/Update

The FSSC maintains a close relationship with the Dept. of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH). The DHLGH is responsible for the development of the Technical Guidance Document B on Fire Safety.

A meeting between the DHLGH and NSAI took place in September 2021. The intent of this meeting is to ensure there is a forum for bilateral exchange of information between both organisations. This meeting typically occurs twice annually.

At the request of DHLGH, NSAI facilitated the contribution of pre-consultation phase comments from members of NSAI fire safety technical bodies, during the drafting phase of TGD B . It is expected that committees will comment formally when the public comment commences.

6 Irish Publications/Reviews

6.1 Publications

There were no new publications in 2021.

6.2 Reviews

The committee reviewed the following Irish national Standards and agreed to withdraw;

- I.S. ISO 8421-1:1988 – *Fire Protection - Vocabulary. Part 1: General Terms and Phenomena of Fire*
- I.S. ISO 8421-1:1988 - *Fire Protection - Vocabulary. Part 2: Structural Fire Protection*

7 Work programme for 2022 onwards

| Work Plan | Number of meetings |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| FSSC | |
| Normal Meetings | 3 |
| Events | 1 |
| Meeting with the DHPLG | 1 |
| WG1 Fire Safety in Buildings | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Monitor documents/votes for CEN TC 127, ISO TC 92 | 0 |
| WG2 Fire Alarms | |
| Develop next edition of I.S. 3218 | 8 |
| Monitoring CEN TC 72 documents and attend Plenary Meetings (2 meetings per year) where appropriate. | 2 |
| WG 3 Fire Services Equipment | |
| Publish new Amendment to I.S. 291:2015 | 2 |
| Develop and Publish Amendment No.1 to I.S. 291: 2015 | 4-6 |
| Monitor documents/votes for CEN TC 70 | 1 |
| Monitor documents/votes for CEN TC 191 | 1 |
| WG 4 Fire Safety of Furniture/Textiles | |
| Continued monitoring of Furniture regulations | 0 |
| Monitor documents/votes for CEN TC's 207,248, ISO TC136 | 0 |
| WG 5 Emergency Lighting | |
| Develop/Publish revision of I.S. 3217 | 6 |
| Monitor documents/votes for CEN TC 169 WG3 and CLC TC34 WG1 | 2 |