

So why do you need a guarantee against false alarms?

In order to have a fully compliant fire system, you need your system to comply with these standards and legislation/policies:

- 1) [Chief Fire Officers' Association Policy](#)
- 2) [BS 5839-1:2002 + A2:2008 Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings](#)
- 3) [Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order \(2005\)](#)

The **Chief Fire Officers' Association** has produced a comprehensive policy, titled:

"CFOA PROTOCOL FOR THE REDUCTION OF FALSE ALARMS & UNWANTED FIRE SIGNALS".

This document is very detailed, and it is advised that you spend the time to familiarise yourself with this at the links shown above. However, to summarise, the document clearly defines the responsibilities placed on individuals, who have a responsibility for managing a fire alarm system.

As well as stating what is considered to be an acceptable level of false alarms per year, it also explains how reducing these false alarms, can then lead to a reduction in unwanted fire signals (UwFS). The vast number of unwanted fire signals each year has placed a tremendous drain on the fire brigade resources, and the CFOA are now expecting individuals to take the responsibility for their own fire systems to ensure this number can be reduced.

The British Standard, **BS 5839-1:2002 + A2:2008 Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings - Code of practice for the system design, installation, commissioning and maintenance** dedicates a whole section to providing recommendations on the topic of reducing false alarms. 'Section 3 - Limitation of False Alarms' offers advice on what the British Standard deems to be acceptable levels of false alarms, and also provides a list of known causes of false alarms, some of which can include:

- fumes from cooking processes (including toasting of bread)
- steam (from bathrooms, shower rooms and industrial processes)
- aerosol spray (e.g. deodorants and cleaning fluids)
- smoke from sources other than a fire in the building (e.g. from an external bonfire)
- cutting, welding and similar "hot work"

Please note: We can demonstrate the superior performance and resilience that our smoke detectors can afford against these nuisance causes at our demonstration facilities.

Since the arrival of the arrival of the **Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (2005)**, it has provided transparency regarding who has fire precaution duties placed upon them. It makes clear what action is required and how this legislation will be enforced if they fail to comply.

It is the "responsible person" who ultimately has duties placed upon them in a place of work, and the RRFSO defines this person or people in article 3.

Meaning of "responsible person"

3. In this Order "responsible person" means—

- (a) in relation to a workplace, the employer, if the workplace is to any extent under his control;
- (b) in relation to any premises not falling within paragraph (a)—
 - (i) the person who has control of the premises (as occupier or otherwise) in connection with the carrying on by him of a trade, business or other undertaking (for profit or not); or
 - (ii) the owner, where the person in control of the premises does not have control in connection with the carrying on by that person of a trade, business or other undertaking

The "responsible person" has a duty to ensure your workplace complies with the duties detailed in articles **13 'Fire-fighting and fire detection'**, which states:

Fire-fighting and fire detection

13. —(1) Where necessary (whether due to the features of the premises, the activity carried on there, any hazard present or any other relevant circumstances) in order to safeguard the safety of relevant persons, the responsible person must ensure that—

(a) the premises are, to the extent that it is appropriate, equipped with appropriate fire-fighting equipment and with fire detectors and alarms; and

(b) any non-automatic fire-fighting equipment so provided is easily accessible, simple to use and indicated by signs.

For the "responsible" person to be deemed to have complied with article 13-1(a), the "responsible person" must ensure the Fire Alarm system is appropriate. This means the system must comply with the current British Standards i.e. **BS5839 Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings Part 1 - Code of practice for system design, installation, commissioning and maintenance.**

It is an offence for the "responsible person" not to comply with their duties, as detailed by article 32.

Offences

32. —(1) It is an offence for any responsible person or any other person mentioned in article 5(3) to—

(a) fail to comply with any requirement or prohibition imposed by articles 8 to 22 and 38 (fire safety duties) where that failure places one or more relevant persons at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire;

(b) fail to comply with any requirement or prohibition imposed by regulations made, or having effect as if made, under article 24 where that failure places one or more relevant persons at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire;

Any if convicted of an offence, the "responsible person" could face a heavy fine or imprisonment up to two years.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1)(a) to (d) and (2)(h) is liable—

(a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both.

To avoid non-compliance to any of these standards, legislation, or policies choose a fire alarm system manufacturer which has pioneered to develop a 'False Alarm Free' fire alarm system – in fact Siemens are so confident in this claim, that we are prepared to offer a **Guarantee Against False Alarms.**