

# Fire alarms... where do I begin?

All businesses in the UK must comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO). This states, amongst other things, that you must have means of: warning of fire e.g. a fire alarm; escape from fire e.g. fire escapes, emergency lighting etc; and fighting of fire, such as fire extinguishers.

The starting point is to have a fire risk assessment carried out by a 'competent person'. This fire risk assessment will let you know the level of fire safety cover required in your care home. It will cover items such as what category of fire alarm system is required, extinguishing requirements, emergency lighting requirements, and training and maintenance.

If you're looking at opening a new care home, re-opening a refurbished one, or having some major building work undertaken it's also worth talking to your insurance company, fire officer, planning officer, builder or architect



to get their input and advice, as they may have additional requirements to the risk assessment or British Standards requirements.

Therefore the starting point when considering a fire alarm is to ensure you have a comprehensive fire risk assessment undertaken. The results from this, and third party experts,

will help ensure the system that may be required for your care home is fit for purpose.

For advice on fire risk assessments, or which type of fire alarm may be best suited to your needs, just call Abbot Fire Group on 01280 824111.