



East Sussex
Fire & Rescue Service

EAST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

Notice No: ESFRS/HA/DS/0818/E1/23

Notice requiring steps to be taken under Article 30 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Name of Premises: VIP House

Address of Premises: Venture Industrial Park, Menzies Road, St Leonards-On-Sea, TN38 9BB

Responsible Person: Daisy's Property Limited, 84 Quicks Road, London, SW19 1EX

I, Danny Sherman, on behalf of East Sussex Fire Authority, hereby give you notice that the Fire Authority are of the opinion that, as a person being under an obligation to do so, you have failed to comply with the requirements placed upon you by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in respect of the above named premises and the persons who may be on the premises or who may be affected by a fire on the premises.

The matters which, in the opinion of the Fire Authority, constitute the failures to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are specified in the Schedule to this Notice.

The Fire Authority is further of the opinion that the steps identified in the Schedule to this Notice must be taken to remedy the specified failures to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The steps identified in the Schedule are to be completed by the dates indicated.

Unless the steps identified in the Schedule to this Notice have been completed within the given time limit, you will be deemed not to have complied with this Notice and the Fire Authority may consider a prosecution against you. You may however apply for an extension to this time limit (see notes).

You have the right to appeal against the Notice (see notes), by way of complaint for an order, to the Clerk to the Court of the Magistrates' Court acting for the petty sessions area in which your premises is located. If you wish to bring an appeal, you must do so within 21 days of the date this Notice is served on you. The Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 will apply to the proceedings. The bringing of an appeal shall have the effect of suspending the operation of this Enforcement Notice until the appeal is finally disposed of or, if the appeal is withdrawn, until the withdrawal of the appeal.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DS' or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Date: 18 August 2023

(on behalf of, and duly authorised by, East Sussex Fire Authority)

**SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN ENFORCEMENT NOTICE NO ESFRS/HA/DS/0818/E1/23
REQUIRING STEPS TO BE TAKEN UNDER ARTICLE 30 OF THE REGULATORY REFORM
(FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005 ISSUED BY EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY ON 18 AUGUST
2023.**

Name of Premises: VIP House

Address of Premises: Venture Industrial Park, Menzies Road, St Leonards-On-Sea,
TN38 9BB

Where appropriate, a plan may form part of this Schedule to illustrate the steps which, in the opinion of the Fire Authority, need to be taken in order to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Note: Notwithstanding any consultation undertaken by the Fire Authority, **before** you make any alterations to the premises, **you** may need to apply for approval from either the Local Authority Building Control or an Approved Inspector and/or the approval of any other local bodies having a statutory interest in the premises.

SCHEDULE

The location and details of matters which are considered to be failures to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are detailed, along with the steps considered necessary to remedy the failures.

1 Failure under Article 8(1)(a) & 8(1)(b) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

(The responsible person must take such general fire precautions as will ensure the safety of all persons present).

1.1 Failure

The Responsible Person has failed to take measures to reduce the risk of the spread of fire and smoke throughout the premises.

Remedy

The fire resistance of the existing separating partition of unit 12 should be provided by materials giving a minimum of 30 minutes fire resistance, with any opening within the partition provided by a 30-minute fire resisting self-closing door. Each door should be fitted with intumescent strips and cold smoke seals.

Appropriate fire stopping must be applied to the joins between walls, ceilings and floors. Such fire stopping should maintain the integrity and standard of the fire resistance of the corresponding walls, ceilings and floors.

DATE REQUIRED - 16 February 2024

Supporting Information

The compartment wall separating the rear of unit 12 and the Menzies Road staircase lobby on the second floor does not provide adequate fire resistance in accordance with the benchmark standards contained in HM Government guidance.

It is recommended that a full compartment wall survey is carried out during the fire risk assessment process to identify any further breaches of fire compartmentation.

Further information is available in Appendix B page 123 of the HM government guidance on "Fire safety risk assessment factories and warehouses".

2 Failure under Article 14 (1), 14 (2)(f) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

(The responsible person must ensure that routes to emergency exits from premises and the exits themselves are kept clear at all times and emergency doors are not locked or fastened so that they cannot be easily and immediately opened by any person who may require to use them in an emergency).

2.1 Failure

The Responsible Person has failed to maintain emergency exit routes clear and free of combustible materials at all times.

Remedy

All routes to emergency exits in the premises and the emergency exits themselves are to be kept clear at all times.

DATE REQUIRED - 18 September 2023

Supporting Information

Corridors and stairways should be always kept clear and hazard free. Items that may be a source of fuel and pose an ignition risk should never be located on any corridor or stairway, this particularly applies to the temporary storage of motor vehicles.

Further information is available on HM Government guidance "Fire safety risk assessment factories and warehouses" pages 27 and 67 provides the general principles and the suitability of escape routes.

2.2 Failure

The Responsible Person has failed to ensure that appropriate control measures have been put in place for fastenings such as sliding bolts and padlocks fitted on hasp and staple fixings on fire doors throughout the premises.

Remedy

Appropriate arrangements must be put in place to ensure only essential security doors are fitted with this type of locking device and that procedures are adopted to ensure any locks fitted are removed immediately upon occupation.

DATE REQUIRED - 18 September 2023

Supporting Information

The responsible person must ensure that emergency doors are not locked or fastened so that they cannot be easily and immediately opened by any person who may require to use them in an emergency. Further information is available on page 31, and Appendix B3 of the HM government guidance "Fire safety risk assessment factories and warehouses".

3 Failure under Article 22 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

(Where two or more responsible persons share or have duties in respect of premises, each such person must co-operate with the other responsible person concerned so far as is necessary to enable them to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed on them by or under the Order).

3.1 Failure

The Responsible Person must co-operate and co-ordinate their activities with other Responsible Persons with whom they share the premises.

Remedy

The Responsible Person must co-operate and co-ordinate with other responsible persons who share the premises or the building to ensure that they inform the other responsible persons concerned of the risks to relevant persons arising out of or in connection with the conduct by him/her of his/her undertaking.

DATE REQUIRED - 18 September 2023

Supporting Information

Where you share premises with others (this includes people who are self-employed or in partnership), each responsible person, i.e. each employer, owner or other person who has control over any part of the premises, will need to cooperate and co-ordinate the findings of their separate fire risk assessments to ensure the fire precautions and protection measures are effective throughout the building. This could include:

- co-ordinating an emergency plan identifying the nature of any risks and how they may affect others in or about the premises;
- identifying any fire-prevention and protection measures;
- identifying any measures to mitigate the effects of a fire; and
- arranging any contacts with external emergency services and calling the fire and rescue services.

The Fire Authority considers that the above detailed steps will reduce the excessive risk to an acceptable level in the premises. Alternative ways of achieving an equivalent standard may be available and any request for the Fire Authority to consider alternative proposals should be submitted as a matter of urgency.

**NOTES TO ACCOMPANY ENFORCEMENT NOTICE
SERVED UNDER ARTICLE 30 OF THE
REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005**

1. Contravention of any requirement imposed by an Enforcement Notice is an offence under Article 32 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and renders the offender liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or, on conviction on indictment, to an unlimited fine, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.
2. In any proceedings for an offence referred to in Note 1, where the commission by any person of an offence under the Order is due to the act or default of some other person, that person is guilty of the offence, and a person may be charged with and convicted of the offence whether or not proceedings are taken against the first mentioned person.
3. Nothing in the Order operates so as to afford an employer a defence in any criminal proceedings for a contravention of those provisions by reason of any act or default of an employee or person nominated to implement measures for fire-fighting and procedures for serious and imminent danger and for danger areas, and appointed to assist him/her in undertaking such preventive and protective measures as necessary.
4. Subject to Note 3, in any proceedings for an offence under the Order, except for a failure to comply with articles 8(a) (Duty to take general fire precautions) or 12 (Elimination or reduction of risks from dangerous substances), it is a defence for the person charged to prove that he/she took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence.
5. In any proceedings for an offence under the Order consisting of a failure to comply with a duty or requirement so far as is reasonably practicable, it is for the accused to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to do more than was in fact done to satisfy the duty or requirement.
6. A person on whom an Enforcement Notice is served may under Article 35 of the Order appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days from the date on which the Enforcement Notice was served. The bringing of an appeal has the effect of suspending the operation of the Notice until the appeal is finally disposed of or, if the appeal is withdrawn, until the withdrawal of the appeal.
7. The Fire Authority may grant, at their discretion, an extension (or further extension) of time specified for the steps to be taken if an appeal against the Notice is not pending. Application for an extension of time should be addressed to the above named Officer.
8. If you are the responsible person you are under an obligation to comply with the provisions of the Order or of any regulations made under it. If you have failed to comply and you and the Fire Authority cannot agree on the measures that are necessary to remedy the failure(s), the question may be referred to the Secretary of State for his determination under Article 36 of the Order.
9. To satisfy the 'Environment and Safety Information Act 1988' the Fire Authority is obliged to enter details of this Enforcement Notice into a register to which the public have access. If you feel that any such entry would disclose secret or confidential trade or manufacturing information, then you should appeal in writing to the Authority within a period of fourteen days following; a) the day on which the appeal period in Note 6 above expires, or b) the day on which the appeal is finally disposed of, where an appeal is brought. The following summary of the contents of the Notice will be entered on the public register: -

Served On	Notice Type	Premises Name	Location	Notice Number
18/08/2023	Enforcement	VIP House	Hastings	ESFRS/HA/DS/0818/E1/23

The Public Register can be accessed via the internet at www.esfrs.org and this actual notice may be viewed by clicking on the link shown in the table above.

10. The works or actions specified in the Notice are only intended to ensure a satisfactory standard of fire precautions that will comply with the Order. The Notice is issued without prejudice to any other enforcement action that may be taken by this, or any other, enforcing authority.
11. The Fire Authority would be willing to consider and reasonably assist with any proposals you may have to remedy the matters specified in the Notice.
12. To assist with administration procedures, it would be helpful if you could quote the reference number (at the top of this Notice) when dealing with the Fire Authority.