

Digitise the Golden Thread in Fire Safety

Learn how leading Fire Safety companies are delivering compliance digitally



Contents

1 Introduction

2 What are the updated Fire Safety measures?

3 Fire Safety Compliance with PlanRadar's Digital Platform

4 How PlanRadar's Fire Safety Platform benefits you

5 Success Stories

6 About PlanRadar

1. Introduction

According to fire and rescue incident statistics (England)¹, the total number of fires increased by three per cent from 149,804 in the year ending June 2021 to 154,772 in the year ending June 2022. There were 251 fire-related deaths in the year ending 2021 compared to 275 fire-related deaths in the same period in 2022. Fire safety is of paramount importance in the United Kingdom, and ensuring the safety of building occupants in case of fire is a legal requirement.

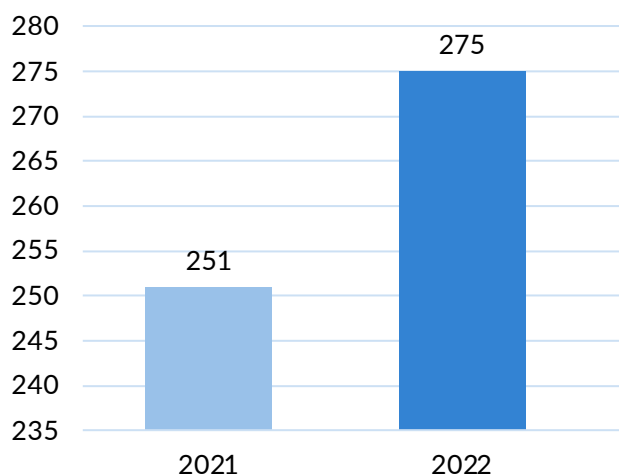
The Fire Safety Act 2021² amends the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order). It takes important

steps forward in strengthening the Fire Safety Order and improving fire safety.

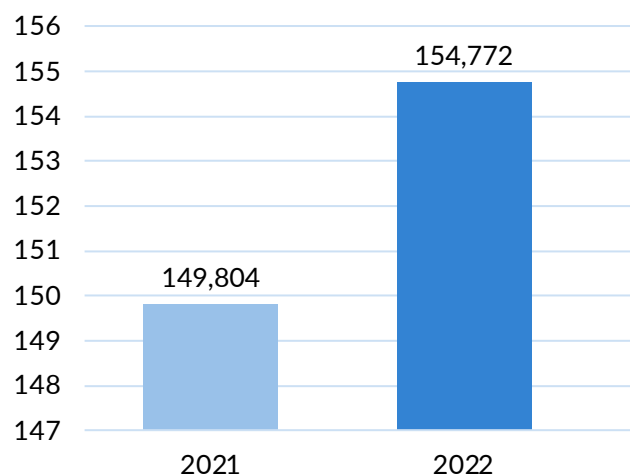
The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 have been introduced as an important step towards implementing the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. The Regulations officially came into effect on 23 January 2023.

In this e-book, we take a brief look at what the new Fire Safety regulations mean with the requirement for everyone to become Fire Safety compliant and how digital solutions can provide you with many benefits beyond compliance.

Fire-related deaths



Increased total number of fires



¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-june-2022/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-june-2022>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-reform-fire-safety-order-2005-guidance-note-enforcement>

2. What are the updated Fire Safety measures?

The Fire Safety Act 2021 clarifies

that responsible persons (RPs) for multi-occupied residential buildings must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building, including cladding, balconies and windows, and entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts.

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022

introduces additional requirements on Responsible Persons, aimed at identifying and communicating fire risk information to those who need to know about the risk. This includes providing fire risk information regarding evacuation procedures to residents in a format they will understand.

There is also a new requirement for the Responsible Person to electronically provide the Fire and Rescue Service with up-to-date risk information that will assist them in both planning and responding to an operational incident. This includes providing floor plans, information on external wall construction (when appropriate) and defective critical equipment such as fire lifts (if they are likely to be defective for more than 24 hours).



3. Fire Safety Compliance with PlanRadar's Digital Platform

PlanRadar is transforming the fire sector with our intuitive and efficient digital platform which operates in 75+ markets globally. We support companies to digitise their fire safety procedures, documents and help them to create their own 'golden thread of information' through their individual projects.

PlanRadar empowers your teams to:

- 1** Collect evidence, document, collaborate and report, from project site to the office.
- 2** Create a tamperproof audit trail, complete with photos, videos, and comments.
- 3** Ensure a single source of truth and no information loss.
- 4** Reports can be generated within 20 seconds for immediate peer review.
- 5** Each user of our platform saves an average of 7 hours per week.

Get to know PlanRadar

Discover how to increase productivity in your fire safety and property projects, manage your projects and work with your team on one platform.

[Book a product demo](#)



We partner with major companies like Arup, Kiwa, Global HSE, Morgan Sindall, calfordseaden, ISG etc, to support the following activities:

- Fire Risk Assessments
- Evidence collection
- EWS1 forms
- Passive Fire Protection
- Inspections & Audits
- Handovers
- Fire Doors, Dampers, Risers, Ducts & Compartmentation
- QA Process & Checklists
- Certification
- Facades
- All surveys & reports
- And more
- Part L

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION



GLOBAL
FIRE SAFETY EXPERTS GROUP

ARUP



4. How PlanRadar's Fire Safety Platform benefits you



Ensure compliance

Use up-to-date fire risk assessment forms to ensure all of your projects meet the latest fire regulations.



Increase efficiency

Collect, collate and share information without having to spend any extra time on paperwork in the office.



Standardise inspections

Use bespoke fire inspection checklists and reports to ensure your team collects the same data, the same way, every time.



Zero information loss

Track all work in real time and create seamless fire safety reports. Communication is automatically logged for a secure audit trail.



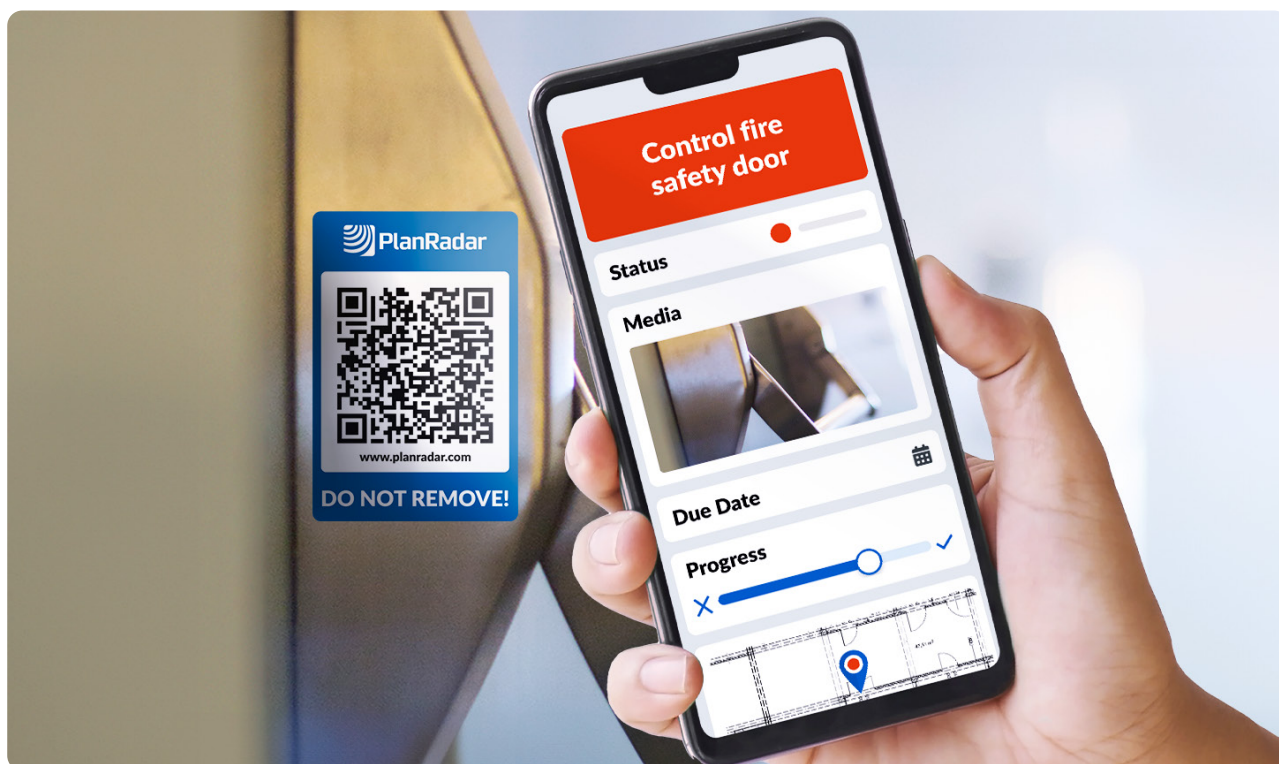
All processes in one place

Carry out inspections, log evidence, communicate advice and recommendations and generate reports in a single platform.



Secure data and file storage

Save all fire safety documentation securely in the Cloud for future reference and in the event of claims.



5. Success Stories

1 Global HSE Solutions: Bringing efficiency to fire surveys & inspections



Global HSE Solutions, headquartered in Nottingham, UK, are industry leaders in fire safety and passive fire protection measures. They are focused on keeping premises, staff and clients safe, so that everyone can be secure.

Global Technical Services is the technical fire services arm of Global HSE Solutions. They deliver scrutineering services, fire risk assessments, fire risk management and surveying. Throughout 2022, GTS has scaled quickly into a separate division with an increased headcount and have faced some of the short-term organisational challenges that come with rapid growth.

The Challenge

As companies grow and expand their services, they face the challenge of finding the right tools to streamline their processes while maintaining a high quality of service. Global Technical Solutions (GTS) was no exception. To improve the client's experience of their services and make their work more efficient and enjoyable for their team, Ross O'Loughlin, Head of Global Technical Services, sought a solution that could speed up their surveys without losing their value.

The team at GTS also wanted to deliver projects efficiently without compromising their work-life balance. O'Loughlin stated that he wanted to improve the working life of his staff and streamline the reporting, writing, and collating of information around

a survey, which has always been a laborious task. If they could streamline that process in any way, it would allow them to focus their energy on delivering their expertise.



The Solution and Outcome

The adoption of PlanRadar by Global Technical Solutions (GTS) has had a significant impact on their operations. After testing the platform, GTS rolled it out to all their inspection and surveying teams, and the results were impressive. PlanRadar provided the team with an effortless way to record fire inspections and survey results. Instead of stopping to make notes on paper or doing lengthy follow-up work in the office, the team could walk through a building and record voice notes. This resulted in less time wasted and a better work-life balance for the team

Today, around 20+ team members work with PlanRadar every day, and the adoption has been a success. GTS is now exploring how the potential of PlanRadar can be used to deliver different services in other areas of the business. O'Loughlin is confident that there is much potential still waiting to be unlocked.

He noted that, from a business perspective, uploading as many documents, photos or jpegs at no extra cost is a massive win in comparison to competitors in this space. By adopting PlanRadar, Global Technical Solutions was able to streamline their processes, improve their services, and maintain a healthy work-life balance for their team.



PlanRadar is really useful, and the opportunities we can gain from getting to grips with and using all its functions would improve our business.”

[Read case study ▶](#)

2 Verus Group: High quality firestopping and compartment surveys with PlanRadar



Verus Group was founded in 2018 by a team of three directors including Jordan Grimes. Jordan was at that time a director of an electrical company, but repeatedly noted that his clients were left hunting for reliable firestopping services. Seeing a gap in the market and a lack of properly trained experts, the founding team initially sought training through product manufacturers before launching Verus Group, and soon went on to gain 3rd party accreditations.

Beginning with a select group of clients, the Verus Group team have found themselves much in demand. Their initial team of 3 employees doubled in size in 2022. Retrofitting projects are still the bulk of Verus Group's workload, ensuring that older buildings are fit for purpose and compliant with regulations. They also work closely with a residential contractor on large-scale housing projects, including blocks of flats. However, the team are always interested in new challenges, completing firestopping and fire compartment surveys in all kinds of buildings, from heritage buildings to laboratories and railway control centres.

The Challenge

As a young business, Verus Group faced the challenge of maintaining accountability for themselves and their clients as they kept a record of all installations. However, they initially did not use a digital solution specifically designed for the fire industry

as the team used pen, paper, and a camera to document installations and complete work on-site. This method was time-consuming, and it meant that data wasn't stored in a way that was easy to access. A big investment in software wasn't a high priority, although as their workload began to increase, they knew that further digitisation would help their team's efficiency.

Therefore, Verus Group invested in tablets that could be taken onto sites to record data. At this point, they looked to invest in specialist fire safety software. The challenge came upon searching the market, looking through poor reviews and a high cost so they decided against it. Instead, they turned to a non-specialised cloud-based solution that allowed the site teams to add notes and photos to a shared data environment. While this method was similar to pen and paper, it began to ease the administrative burden. Despite the improvements made through the use of tablets and cloud-based solutions, the Directors, Thistleton and Grimes, knew that there must be a better option out there. After reaching out to an online community of fire safety experts for a recommendation, a friend in the industry recommended PlanRadar.

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The Solution and Outcome

After the first week of getting used to the PlanRadar digital platform, it was quickly evident that PlanRadar was a good fit, and the team moved onto only using PlanRadar to track their work. Verus Group were now able to improve their processes significantly. The platform's specialised features designed for the fire industry allowed them to capture and store data more efficiently, making it easier to access, manage and share. The real-time collaboration feature enabled the team to communicate better, and they could instantly report any issues, which meant that they could resolve them quickly.

Verus Group's digital transformation journey in the fire safety industry highlights the importance of investing in specialised digital platform that can significantly improve the efficiency of the business processes. The initial investment may seem daunting, but the benefits can be far-reaching and can help businesses like Verus Group to maintain accountability and transparency with their clients. By investing in PlanRadar, Verus Group was able to streamline their processes and complete projects to their clients requirements within time frames agreed and on schedule.



PlanRadar is simple and good at what it does. It's very easy to use and, whether the team on-site are online or offline, they can just keep working and be sure that their data is safe. Overall, PlanRadar has added accountability and transparency to the way we work."

[Read case study ▶](#)

Britannia & Acoustic Fire Services: Tamper-proof audit trails for fire prevention



Britannia Acoustic & Fire Ltd is a leading fire protection contractor based in Essex. Founded in 2019 by two experienced Directors, Tony Nunn and Mark Fairman, the company has quickly built its reputation by taking on projects from new build housing to retrofitting cladding on large blocks of flats and delivering acoustic and fire protection to a new film studio in North London.

At the company's core is a commitment to fire safety and excellent customer service. Britannia Acoustic & Fire Ltd are CHAS, SSIP registered and IFC accredited and seek to give their clients true peace of mind when it comes to fire protection.

The Challenge

One of Britannia's most significant projects to date involved the installation of compartmented fire protection to the exterior of a

large block of flats. With cladding already installed on the flats, Britannia's teams had the desire to remove cladding to install the necessary fire protection measures and then reinstall the cladding. This required the expertise of an abseiling team and all tasks, therefore, had additional challenges caused by working at height.

Due to new, more stringent safety regulations regarding cladding, every step would need to be thoroughly documented and photographed. This documentation would have been exceptionally time-consuming to complete manually. The client also required real-time updates so that they could monitor progress throughout the project.

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The Solution and Outcome

Britannia Acoustic & Fire Ltd turned to PlanRadar, a cloud-based construction digital platform, to help them manage this project. By creating tickets for each action and logging progress and photographs on a digital plan of the façade, the team was able to ensure that each element was successfully installed. They were also able to account for the materials used, the personnel involved, the date and time of each action and provide the necessary photographs.

PlanRadar enabled Britannia to deliver the project on time and with all the necessary evidence safely logged. In addition, PlanRadar's flexible report templates made it easy for Britannia to provide their client with regular, thorough progress reports. The software streamlined several tasks, including setting up new projects with digital plans sent by clients, assigning the site team to the project, and selecting the tickets and lists they'll need to use. Site supervisors are added as in-house users, while subcontractors use free subcontractor accounts to access their tasks and track their work.

Using PlanRadar has made it easier for Britannia to identify issues during a project. For example, they could see from PlanRadar's user statistics that certain subcontractors hadn't logged into the app or looked at their tasks. They could also see how long subcontractors were spending on a specific ticket, allowing them to intervene before receiving a report from a site supervisor.

PlanRadar has given Britannia the tools they need to document and report their work to clients while saving the team time, reducing paperwork, simplifying communication and giving them oversight of all their projects. The company was able to successfully complete the project on the large block of flats and pass it to NHBC for quality control and sign-off. Overall, PlanRadar has been an essential tool for Britannia in ensuring fire safety and regulatory compliance on their projects.



Using PlanRadar, we've been able to get rid of all unnecessary paperwork and have completely replaced site worksheets. I also don't have to pull together different pieces of paper in order to update our directors on a site's status, they can log in to the system and easily find the information they need."

[Read case study ►](#)



About PlanRadar

PlanRadar is a digital platform for documentation, task management and communication in construction and real estate projects. The platform enables teams to increase quality, cut costs and realise work faster. By improving collaboration and providing access to real-time data, PlanRadar's easy-to-use platform adds value to every person involved in a building's lifecycle, with flexible capabilities for all company sizes and processes. Today, PlanRadar serves more than 150,000 users across 75+ countries.



150k+
Users



75+
Countries

94%

of customers say PlanRadar reduces time spent compiling reports

96%

of our customers report a positive experience with PlanRadar

91%

of customer say PlanRadar increases productivity



Manage all fire safety documentation in one platform



Try out now for free

Book a product demo