

Storage of Materials and Obstructions within Fire Exit Routes

This Notice is part of a series of communications aimed at improving our Fire Safety management and arrangements to comply with current fire legislation: Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

The storage of Combustible Material within the fire exit routes have been observed in a number of the campuses, e.g. storage in stairwells, corridor being used for storage or the width of the exit route being reduced by storage and/or combustible material.

What defines Combustible Material? Paper, wood, cardboard, and cloth or any material that is easy to ignite with the application of a heat source.

What is a Fire Exit Route? This route should provide safe passage from your location i.e. office, classroom or workshop to a place of safety which is ultimately outside away from the building. Your route will possibly take in corridors and staircases and be indicated by Fire Exit Directional Signs, (green and white sign with Running Man). These routes must be maintained clear at all times.

The picture on the right shows fire exit doors in a corridor being obstructed by trolleys and combustible materials. Failure to follow the guidance regarding the maintenance of a clear exit route will have a detrimental effect on the ability of persons trying to escape the building in the event of a fire.



Corridors and stairs that form part of fire exit routes should be kept clear and hazard free at all times. Fire safety guidance states that items which may be a source of fuel, or pose an ignition risk, should not normally be located on or within fire exit corridor or staircases e.g. photocopiers, vending machines or upholstered furniture. It may be possible to store material within metal cabinets, but only if they are locked when not in use, and exit widths are not compromised.

All staff, students and contractors should be aware of the importance of maintaining the safety of fire exit routes.

By working together on Fire Safety issues we can really make the difference.

Health and Safety Team