

Summary of significant changes to BAFE SP203-1 and SP203-3 scheme documents

BAFE Scheme Document SP203-1, Version 7 was issued in September 2016. This is a summary of the significant changes from Version 6.

1) Clause 5.2.4 – Issuing Certificates of Compliance

The scheme document has been amended to make it clear that the issuing of Certificates of Compliance in accordance with clause 5.2.4 is mandatory under the scheme.

2) Clauses 5.2.5/5.2.8 – The responsibility for issuing the Certificate of Compliance where more than one Certificated Organisation is involved in the project

There has always been a “grey” area over which organisation has the responsibility for issuing the Certificate of Compliance when more than one BAFE Certificated Organisation is involved in the project. This has now been clarified and it is the organisation with responsibility for commissioning/handover who is now responsible for issuing the Certificate of Compliance once the relevant modular certificates have been issued to them by the other Certificated Organisations involved in the project. These modular certificates MUST be retained by the commissioning/handover organisation as part of the project file.

3) Clause 5.3.1 – Modification Certification

The scheme document has been amended to make it clear that the issuing of modification certificates in accordance with clause 5.3.1 is mandatory under the scheme.

4) Clause 5.4.1 – Maintenance Certification

Certificated Organisations with a scope for maintenance must now issue a “Certificate of Maintenance” which must include as a minimum the information contained in Annex A1.1.2.

This certificate may be combined with the BS 5839-1:2013, Annex H6 certificate as long as the information detailed in Annex A1.1.2 is included.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Certificated Organisation to provide these certificates, NSI will not be providing any form of certificates or templates to cover this requirement.

5) Clause 13.3 – Clarification of Corporate Level Certification

Organisations with more than one operational location* may apply for certification at Corporate level allowing one “Head Office” approval to cover all locations.

The application must cover ALL operational locations and the application MUST identify which scope(s) of work is undertaken from each location. Audits against scope of work applicable to

that location must be carried out at each location before Corporate level certification can be granted.

Where an organisation holds certification at Corporate level not all the organisation's operational locations have to undertake the full scope of work for which the organisation itself is certificated. For example, whilst the organisation may hold Corporate level certification for design, installation, commissioning & maintenance, some operational locations may only undertake maintenance work.

** An “Operational Location” is deemed to be a location where there is some degree of operational control of the processes related to the relevant scope of approval (e.g. in old terminology a “branch”). Locations that are used purely as a base for someone to work from (e.g. a “hot desking” location) are not deemed to be Operational Locations.*

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list of changes to the SP203-1 scheme document. For details of all changes to the scheme document please refer to BAFE SP203-1, Version 7, Annex 5.

BAFE Scheme Document SP203-3, Version 3 was issued in September 2016. This is a summary of the significant changes from Version 2.

1) Clause 2.1 – Scope

The scheme document has been amended to clarify that the fire detection element of the system, directly associated with the area protected by the gaseous fire extinguishing, is now within the scope of the BAFE SP203-3. Figure 1 has also been amended to indicate this more clearly.

2) Clauses 5.2.5/5.2.8 – The responsibility for issuing the Certificate of Compliance where more than one Certificated Organisation is involved in the project

There has always been a “grey” area over which organisation has the responsibility for issuing the Certificate of Compliance when more than one BAFE Certificated Organisation is involved in the project. This has now been clarified and it is the organisation with responsibility for commissioning/handover who is now responsible for issuing the Certificate of Compliance once the relevant modular certificates have been issued to them by the other Certificated Organisations involved in the project. These modular certificates MUST be retained by the commissioning/handover organisation as part of the project file.

Where there are different Certificated Organisations responsible for supplying the detection and suppression elements of the system and where both have a scope of approval that includes commissioning/handover then the client shall agree which organisation is responsible for issuing the Certificate of Compliance for the whole system.

3) See point 5 in the SP203-1 changes above.

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list of changes to the SP203-3 scheme document. For details of all changes to the scheme document please refer to BAFE SP203-3, Version 3, Annex 5.