



Security.Improved

## National Security Inspectorate

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JD/LB/NSI 010 25

3 December 2025

### To: All NSI Fire Gold and Fire Silver SP203-1 approved companies

Dear Colleague,

### **SP203-1 MANDATORY LEAD INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATIONS CHECK – NEXT SURVEILLANCE AUDIT**

With the implementation of the BAFE SP203-1 V 8.0.1 scheme on 01 November 2023, it became a requirement for "Lead Personnel" to hold a regulated Level 3 (Level 6 in Scotland) qualification.

The BAFE SP203-1 scheme defines a "Lead Individual" as:

"The nominated individual(s) employed by the Certificated Organisation with heightened responsibilities for work(s) meeting the requirements of the relevant BAFE Scheme and assigned authority to supervise and/or undertake the process relevant to specific work(s)."

Consequently, all approved companies should have at least one individual with a regulated qualification pertinent to the modules they are approved for. An individual may fulfil the "Lead" role for more than one module.

The deadline for companies to have their "Lead Individuals" achieve a regulated qualification was 31 October 2025.

### **Post Deadline BAFE Decision**

As this deadline has now passed, BAFE have taken the decision that, at the next scheduled surveillance audit, the Certification Body (in your case NSI) will review the company's training records and where the designated lead individual for a module does not hold an appropriate regulated qualification, the company's approval for the module(s) will be suspended.

The suspension will be for a maximum period of six months, but if a company can provide evidence that lead personnel have the required qualifications before then, the suspension will be lifted.

If the company cannot provide evidence of the required qualification at the end of the six-month suspension period, then certification for the relevant module(s) will be formally withdrawn and, if the company wish to apply for reinstatement of the withdrawn module(s), they will need to make a formal application to NSI.

For further information, see:

<https://www.bafe.org.uk/bafe-fire-safety-guidance/faqs/tag/44/bafe-sp203-1-scheme>

### **Where Can I Obtain a Regulated Level 3 / Level 6 Qualification**

There are several training organisations which provide the regulated qualifications. Further information on organisations providing regulated qualifications can be found at:

<https://eal.org.uk/>

<https://www.firequal.com/qualifications>

### **Questions or queries?**

If you have any questions or queries regarding the above, please contact your assigned auditor or Account Coordinator.

Yours sincerely,



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