



Fire Protection Impairment Procedure

1. What is Required

Additional precautions should be employed whenever a fire protection system, upon which you rely for the protection of your organisation and/or the safety of your employees, is temporarily taken out of service.

There are two aspects to the Impairment process:

1. The management procedures that you, as a company, put in place whenever a system, or part of a system, (as defined below) is taken out of service for whatever duration.
2. Notification to Protector Insurance whenever a system (as defined below) is taken out of service for in excess of 12 hours. Impairments less than 12 hours (e.g. for planned routine maintenance) still require management but formal notification to Protector Insurance is not required (unless stated otherwise in the terms of your Insurance policy)

The impairment may be as a result of routine maintenance, system modification, equipment malfunction, accidental damage or following an actual fire incident.

The impairment permit should be used to manage ALL impairments internally. The form only need be sent to Protector Insurance when the impairment will be in excess of 12 hours.

2. Managing Impairments

The procedure should be applied to ALL types of fire protection and detection equipment, including:

- Sprinkler / water mist / foam system
- Deluge system covering a specific high hazard
- Hydrant / hose reel mains
- Fixed gas suppression
- Fire detection system (whatever technology is employed)
- Smoke extract, venting or pressurisation (where installed for life safety reasons)

As a general rule consideration should be given to: deferring the impairment to outside working hours; providing constant supervision of affected areas; and, for manufacturing premises, planned impairments of an extended nature should be deferred until the machinery and plant are idle. The precautions to be taken during the impairment are detailed in the Impairment Permit.

NOTE: For life safety systems, specific timing may be necessary by agreement with interested authorities.

3. Notification of impairments

- a) Notification of an impairment is to be made by completing The Permit.
- b) Impairments to be notified to Protector Insurance as soon as practical by completing Part A of The Permit. This is to be emailed to Protector at the following address: Risk@protectorinsurance.co.uk
- c) A Risk Engineer will acknowledge the impairment notification by return email and make comment / observation if appropriate
- d) On restoration of the fire protection system, part B of the permit form is to be completed and emailed back to the above address
- e) A Risk Engineer will acknowledge the restoration of the fire protection system

4. Responsibility for Notification

Only authorised personnel should be assigned the task of controlling impairments and they are to be responsible for following the agreed impairment procedures. Persons responsible for issuing permits to work (in particular for hot work) should be made aware of the time and duration of the impairment.

The embedded 'Fire and Rescue Service Notification Tag' should be printed off, filled out and posted in a prominent position (for example gatehouse, reception or pump house) to make the F&RS aware of the impairment should they attend site.



For clarification or further information please contact –

Risk Management Team

Protector Insurance

+44 (0) 161 274 9077

Risk@protectorinsurance.co.uk

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