

30 September 2008

Our Ref: FL0648



Mr Roger Chamberlain  
General Secretary  
The British Fire Consortium  
47 Poplar Avenue  
Hove  
East Sussex  
BN3 8PT

**OPEN LETTER**

Dear Roger

**Re: Allegations about our Extinguisher Refresher and Exam courses.**

I have had three concerned BFC members telephone me today. They witnessed hearing statements allegedly made from the platform by Graham Newman at Friday's AGM. All three people are independent and confirm the same understanding of the statements made, which suggests they are true.

The first claimed that the ***F.I.R.E*** Technicians Refresher Course Certificate will no longer be recognised by the BFC - allegedly the course content does not comply with BS5306 part 3:2003. Odd this as the BAFE Technician Scheme accepts our certificate. Do you also not recognise theirs and IFEDA's? This is looking like a restrictive trading practice to me. Take a look at BS5306 part 3:2003, this does not specify who can or cannot provide refresher training and we fully comply with the recommended course content.

The second mischievous claim (later retracted) was that the ***F.I.R.E*** Technicians Examination Course does not have a recognised exam. It is clearly stated in all our marketing material, course syllabus and on our website that FIA provides this making it independent to the course.

This is not the first time we have received malicious and inaccurate allegations from people enjoying the protection of being on the BFC Council, but this time it has gone too far.

While I await your reply in writing to clarify the situation, I am making further enquiries and will take legal advice later this week.

Yours sincerely  
for ***F.I.R.E LTD***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Palmer'.

Alan Palmer  
Managing Director

Cc Martin Duggan – FIA  
Peter Bollons – BAFE  
General Secretary - IFEDA

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- Technician Training

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