

Escape route inspection checklist

Escape routes do not fail by design. They fail by accumulation.

Walk it, do not review it. One row per route or area. Widths, travel distances, door forces and signage specifications come from your own fire risk assessment and the guidance for this building type, and are not on this sheet.

PREMISES	FLOOR / AREA	ROUTE OR AREA
INSPECTED BY	DATE	TIME

THE ROUTE

	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Clear along its full width, end to end	☐	☐	☐
Nothing stored, stacked or parked in it	☐	☐	☐
No combustible storage in the route or under stairs	☐	☐	☐
No trailing cables, hoses or trip hazards	☐	☐	☐
Floor surface sound and not slippery	☐	☐	☐
Route not being used as a workspace	☐	☐	☐
Bins and waste not in the route	☐	☐	☐
Temporary works or deliveries not obstructing it	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

DOORS ON THE ROUTE

A propped fire door is a compartment that no longer exists.

	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Fire doors closing fully onto the latch	☐	☐	☐
Nothing wedged, tied, hooked or propped	☐	☐	☐
Hold-open devices, where fitted, release on alarm	☐	☐	☐
No unauthorised locks or bolts fitted	☐	☐	☐
Door furniture operates without special knowledge	☐	☐	☐
Vision panels intact	☐	☐	☐
Signage present on the correct face	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

FINAL EXITS

The most serious rows on the sheet. 'Unlocked' is not the same as 'opens'.

	OK	DEFECT
Openable immediately from the inside without a key	☐	☐
Opens fully, and was physically tried	☐	☐
Escape hardware works and is not stiff or seized	☐	☐
No padlock, chain, bar or additional security fitted	☐	☐
Clear on the outside — no bins, pallets, vehicles or growth	☐	☐
Route away from the exit clear to a place of safety	☐	☐
External lighting adequate where the exit is used in the dark	☐	☐
	☐	☐
	☐	☐

SIGNAGE AND LIGHTING

	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Exit signage visible from the direction of travel	☐	☐	☐
Signage not obscured by stock, plants, notices or decoration	☐	☐	☐
Directional signage correct — points the way it should	☐	☐	☐
Escape lighting present where it is needed	☐	☐	☐
Escape lighting apparently healthy, charge indicators lit	☐	☐	☐
Fire action notices present, legible and current	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

STAIRS

	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Treads and nosings sound	☐	☐	☐
Handrails secure and continuous	☐	☐	☐
Stairwell clear of storage	☐	☐	☐
Stairwell doors closing properly	☐	☐	☐
Refuge, where provided, clear and its communication working	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

DEFECTS, WITH AN OWNER AND A DATE

Anything found above. A wedged door fixed on the spot is still recorded — it will happen again.

SIGN-OFF

INSPECTED BY	DATE
DEFECTS REPORTED TO	DATE REPORTED
REVIEWED BY	DATE