



07 SEPTEMBER 2023

**BAFE SP203-1 Competency Scheme Document Version 8.0**  
**Design, Installation, Commissioning/Handover, and Maintenance of Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems**

## Guidance Note - BAFE SP203-1 Sub-Contractors

Version 8.0 of the BAFE SP203-1 Competency Scheme Document was published 21/08/2023. This document comes into effect 01/11/2023, with clearer defined criteria for sub-contractors (Clause 15).

For installation purposes only, this does permit organisations that are not BAFE SP203-1 Registered to perform this work:

### **15.4 Installation Sub-Contracting**

*The only permissible exception to clauses 15.2 and 15.3 is for the Installation module. For this module, the electrical installation work is permitted to be performed by an electrical contractor holding appropriate certification (e.g. NICEIC Approved Contractor, NAPIT EAS Membership, or equivalent).*

*The BAFE SP203-1 Registered Organisation performing the commissioning stage must check the installation has followed the design plan/requirements.*

*- BAFE SP203-1 Scheme Document Version 8.0*

For clarification, the only other equivalents that would be permitted at present are the *Certsure scheme for ECA contractors or Select Membership with "Accreditation to Technical Criteria" for "Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems in All Buildings"*. If other relevant electrical schemes are available, please inform BAFE via [info@bafe.org.uk](mailto:info@bafe.org.uk) with details for consideration.

We are conscious of any existing contracts that may be in place under the current criteria set in Version 7.2 of the BAFE SP203-1 Scheme (that permits sub-contractors "*subject to the demonstration of competency and appropriate qualification*" - Clause 13.2).

Where any existing and agreed contracts for sub-contracted installation work cross the 01/11/2023 effective date of Version 8.0, this shall be permitted to be completed under the requirements of the Version 7.2 document. This will have a cut off however on 01/05/2024. Future installation sub-contracted work from this date (01/05/2024) shall be required to observe the criteria set out in the Version 8.0 document.

Please note this is different to workers employed under temporary, zero hours contracts etc. These individuals are considered an employee and should be following the management system/competency requirements of the BAFE SP203-1 Registered Organisation.

### **Matt Darville**

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