
GUERNSEY STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

1991 No. 23

The Fire Services (Guernsey) Law, 1989
Code of Guidance No 10 - Child Minding Premises

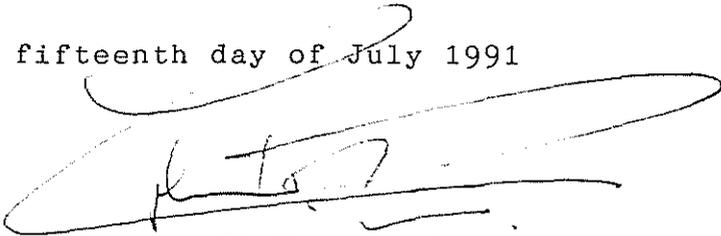
Made 15th July 1991

Laid before the States ...

Coming into operation ... 4th November 1991

THE COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 8(1)(b) of the Fire Services (Guernsey) Law, 1989, and in exercise of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, has this day made this Code of Guidance which shall come into operation on the 4th November 1991.

Dated this fifteenth day of July 1991


MICHAEL W TORODE,

President of the Committee for Home Affairs
for and on behalf of the said Committee

STATES OF GUERNSEY FIRE BRIGADE

CODE OF GUIDANCE TO

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN

CHILD MINDING PREMISES

1 The purpose of this code is to provide guidance to persons looking after young children. The code is designed for use of the home for this purpose, but if a larger building is used the points are still relevant and should be used along with the "Code of Guidance in places where people resort".

MEANS OF ESCAPE

2 The standard to be accepted is the one that could normally be expected to be found in a well designed private dwelling. Children should not normally be permitted on upper floors other than for the use of toilet facilities.

3 If children are to be kept on upper floors, or in ground floors where the only means of escape is past higher risk areas like kitchens or lounges etc, then the route to safety should be 'protected'. This means -

(a) walls should be fire resistant (normal timber frame with plasterboard on both sides will usually be sufficient); and

(b) doors to rooms, other than to toilets or bathrooms containing no fire risk, should be fire resistant and self closing (this normally entails replacement doors and stops and the provision of suitable positive action self closing devices).

DOORS

4 External doors should not ordinarily be fastened so that they cannot easily be opened from the inside without the use of a key. It should be borne in mind however that it should not be too easy for children to get out if an external danger such as traffic would be involved. In this case it may be advisable to hang a key on a chain adjacent to the door but out of reach of the children.

ALTERNATIVE EXITS

5 Ideally a 'dead end' situation should be avoided by the provision of an alternative exit. Ordinarily, doors should be considered as alternative exits, but depending on the situation, windows may be suitable provided they are of the side hung casement type with an area of clear opening of at least 850 mm in height x 500 mm in width. The height of the sill should be no more than 1100 mm.

TRAVEL DISTANCES

6 Where a 'dead end' situation exists (where there is only one way out of a room or building), distances of travel should not generally exceed, as appropriate -

- (a) from any point in the nursery to the exit from it - 9m;
- (b) from the nursery exit to the final exit - 9m.

MEANS OF GIVING WARNING IN CASE OF FIRE

7 At least one domestic type smoke detector is usually advisable and positioned between any danger area and the nursery.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

8 Extinguishers will not normally be required. However, a fire blanket should be kept readily available and usually should be hung adjacent to the kitchen door.

HEATING

9 Heating appliances should be fixed, be out of reach of children and be adequately guarded.

10 No portable paraffin oil heaters should be used.

11 Solid fuel open fires must be provided with fixed guards.

12 Portable LPG heaters are acceptable provided that they are adequately guarded. They should be sited away from doors or stairways and secured to the floor or wall to prevent accidental movement. Changing of cylinders etc should not take place while the room is occupied.

KITCHENS

13 The Director of the Children Board feels that for small groups of children in private homes, many of their needs can be satisfied by play with minor household utensils, and they should be given the opportunity to copy or join in domestic tasks such as washing up and sweeping. Washing up is usually undertaken in the kitchen and no overall ban should be placed on the use of the kitchen by any inspecting officer. If, however, in any particular premises the kitchen is a greater risk than usual, and the inspecting officer feels that the kitchen should not be used, he should say so in his report and give the reason.

14 It should be emphasised that if the kitchen is to be used by the children it should only be under strict supervision, and various safety features should be incorporated such as :-

- (a) cooker safety guards;
- (b) short or coiled leads to kettles;
- (c) no deep fat frying etc.

(see also page 8 of 'Your Home Fire Safety Guide'.

ELECTRICITY

15 Socket outlets should be out of reach of children or be of the switched and shuttered type.

GAS

16 Any gas taps should be of the safety type or out of reach of the children.

HOUSEKEEPING

17 A high standard is required. No storage of combustibles should be permitted within the nursery.

GUIDANCE TO OCCUPANTS

18 A copy of the Home Office booklet "Your Home Fire Safety Guide" should be possessed by each household.

