



Rail Industry Fire Association

Update on RIFA status and formal notice of Annual General Meeting and CPD technical seminar, 19 March 2020

The following announcement was sent to RIFA members by email on 19 March 2020 and will also be circulated on social media:

Good afternoon RIFA members and supporters,

Many of you have been asking what has become of the Rail Industry Fire Association and as the current Chairman I owe you an update. Those of you who attended our last AGM in July 2018 will recall that we were experiencing some difficulties in moving our bank account, preventing us from carrying out many of our activities, including hiring venues for seminars and collecting membership subscriptions.

We finally have a new bank account, but we have also been faced with some other challenges, including the fact that all members of our Management Committee have been especially busy due to the large number of complex infrastructure projects currently in progress, as well as for other professional and personal reasons. RIFA certainly hasn't been idle however, and one particularly welcome project has been the drafting of [BS 9992](#). The majority of the RIFA Management Committee are members of the BSI technical panel and RIFA initiated the drafting of this new code of practice, with our Working Group 7 producing the initial scope for the document.

Following over two years of hard work—no mean feat given that an entire new code of practice has had to be drafted from scratch—BS 9992 is due for publication in May this year. We are currently at the comment resolution stage and almost 600 comments were received, showing a good level of engagement from a wide range of stakeholders. We view the nearing completion of this much needed standard as a big success story for RIFA and the wider railway fire industry.

Another area of development has been the founding of Working Group 8, looking at innovative materials and how these interact with the fire safety of both rolling stock and railway infrastructure.

RIFA members remain at work in all areas of the rail industry and I am proud to be able to say that we continue to be a driving force for raising fire safety standards both in the UK and internationally.

Notice of AGM and technical seminar

We are now in a position to hold our overdue AGM and a CPD technical seminar, which will take place on **19 March 2020**, hosted by Aviva at their Hoxton Square campus in London (**33-35 Hoxton Square, Hackney, London N1 6NN**). Please place the date in your calendars and we will be sending out further information and a full agenda closer to the time. Please feel free to forward this email to anyone else who you think may be interested or who I may have missed (I will also send a notice out via LinkedIn and other social media).

RIFA's activities are only made possible by the hard work of our Management Committee. Please look out for the nomination form, which will be sent out with the full agenda, and consider if you would be interested in running for election to any of our Executive Committee posts. Nicole Hoffmann, our current Vice Chairman, is due to assume the role of Chairman at our upcoming AGM and we are looking for a new Vice Chairman to take her place, with a view to taking up the Chairmanship for the 2022-2024 term.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support to RIFA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in the run up to the AGM and seminar.

Kind regards,

Ben Mossop,
Chairman