



Tasmania Fire Service

Fire Protection Industry

Public Consultation Paper

December 2025



Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian
Government

Introduction

Building Fire Services Review

In 2023, Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) engaged external consultancy KPMG to conduct a comprehensive review of the building fire safety services delivered by TFS. This review was prompted by a combination of external drivers and internal challenges, highlighting the need to identify opportunities to enhance the delivery of building fire safety services.

One of the key recommendations from the report of the review was for TFS to:

“Investigate potential alternative options and processes for the regulation of fire protection professionals.”

In response, TFS is seeking input and ideas to strengthen the regulation of the fire protection industry. Specifically, feedback is being sought across six key areas:

- Occupational licensing
- Application processes
- Auditing, compliance and support
- Industry engagement
- Communication and transparency in decision-making
- Other relevant information or suggestions.

This initiative aims to ensure that regulatory practices are robust, transparent, and aligned with industry needs and expectations.

Licensing System

Licensing within the Tasmanian fire protection system is governed by a dual-layered regulatory framework, designed to ensure both technical competency and professional accountability. This framework comprises:

- Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) Permits – regulating who may install, service, and repair fire protection systems and equipment under the *General Fire Regulations 2021*.
- Occupational Licenses – issued by Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*, ensuring practitioners meet broader building industry standards.

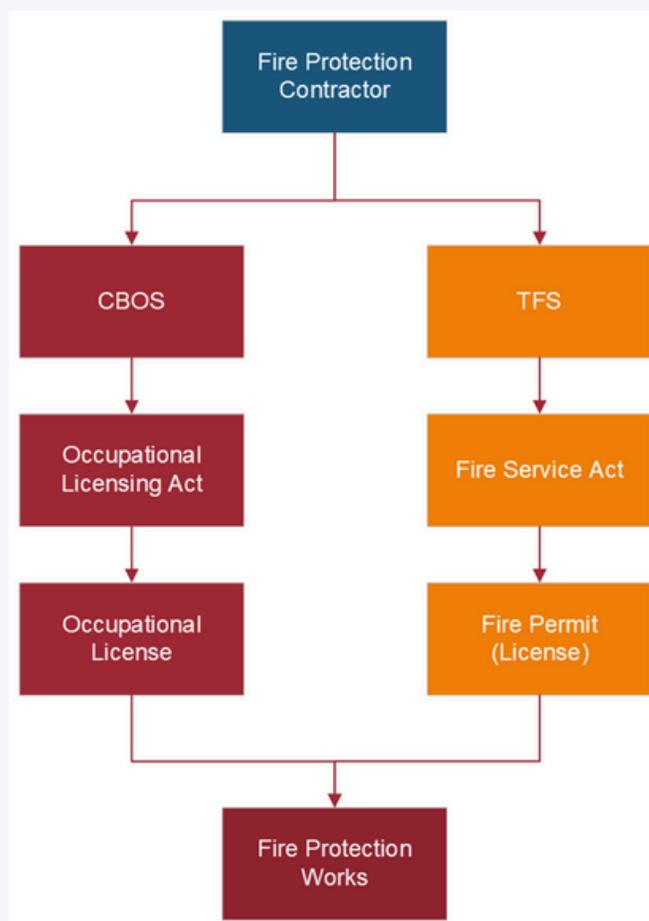


Figure 1: Fire protection system licencing framework

TFS Permit System

Under Part 2 of the General Fire Regulations, individuals intending to install, repair, or routinely service fire protection equipment must hold a valid permit (licence) issued by the Chief Officer of TFS. Permits are issued for two main categories:

1. Fire Protection Systems, which include:
 - Automatic fire detection and alarm systems
 - Fire sprinkler systems
 - Smoke detection and alarm systems
 - Fire-extinguishing systems
 - Fire hydrant systems
 - Mechanical smoke management systems
 - Emergency sound and intercom systems
2. Portable Fire Protection Equipment, such as:
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Fire hose reels
 - Fire blankets

Permit holders must comply with the TFS Code of Practice, and the application process requires evidence of qualifications, experience, and a commitment to regulatory standards. Permits are not transferable or renewable and must be reapplied for prior to expiry.

The TFS permit (licence) ensures compliance with fire safety standards and operational protocols.



CBOS Occupational Licencing System

In addition to the TFS permit, fire protection contractors may also need an occupational license issued by Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS), a division of the Department of Justice.

Governed by the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* and the *Occupational Licensing (Building Services Work) Determination*, this license is required for those performing building services work, including fire protection services.

The CBOS occupational license ensures the contractor meets building industry standards, including qualifications, insurance, and professional conduct.

Regulatory Compliance

Regulatory compliance with fire protection standards in Tasmania is maintained through a structured program of auditing and inspection conducted by TFS.

TFS monitors compliance by:

- Conducting routine and targeted audits of permit holders and fire protection work to ensure adherence to the TFS Code of Practice and relevant Australian Standards.
- Inspecting installations and maintenance activities to verify that systems are designed, installed, and serviced in accordance with approved methods and regulatory requirements.
- Reviewing documentation and service records, which permit holders and building occupiers are required to maintain.
- Investigating complaints or non-compliance and taking enforcement action where necessary, including suspension or cancellation of permits (licences).

This proactive compliance approach helps uphold safety standards, ensures accountability across the industry, and supports public confidence in fire protection services.

The issues on which comment is sought

1. Occupational Licensing

The Department of Justice, through Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS), administers occupational licensing under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*, covering a broad range of regulated professions across Tasmania. This licensing framework is widely recognised as a benchmark for the regulation of trade professionals within the state.

Given the comprehensive nature of the CBOS licensing system, the current fire permitting process managed by TFS may be viewed as a duplication in the regulation of fire protection professionals. This overlap can lead to increased administrative burden, higher compliance costs, and confusion within the industry.

As such, it has been suggested that CBOS may be better positioned to assume regulatory responsibility for licencing of the fire protection industry. Consolidating licensing under a single authority could deliver a more streamlined, consistent, and cost-effective approach to regulation, while maintaining high standards of safety and professional accountability.

Questions

Do you have any suggestions for how licencing of the fire protection industry could be more efficiently and effectively regulated?

We're particularly interested in ideas that could enhance consistency, reduce duplication, streamline processes, and lower costs to practitioners - while maintaining high safety and professional standards.

Do you support a model where a single regulatory body oversees occupational licensing for the fire protection industry in Tasmania?

Consolidating administration and licencing under one authority could help streamline processes, reduce duplication, and lower compliance costs.



2. Application Processes

Initial feedback from stakeholders has highlighted the need for more contemporary and user-friendly permit application processes for the fire protection industry.

Other government departments offering similar occupational licensing services have adopted secure online portals for application submissions, which streamline workflows and improve accessibility. These systems are typically supported by:

- Clear, web-based guidance materials.
- Easy-to-navigate application interfaces.
- Direct access to customer support officers for assistance.

Modernising the application process in line with these practices could significantly enhance user experience, improve efficiency, and reduce administrative burden for both applicants and administrators.

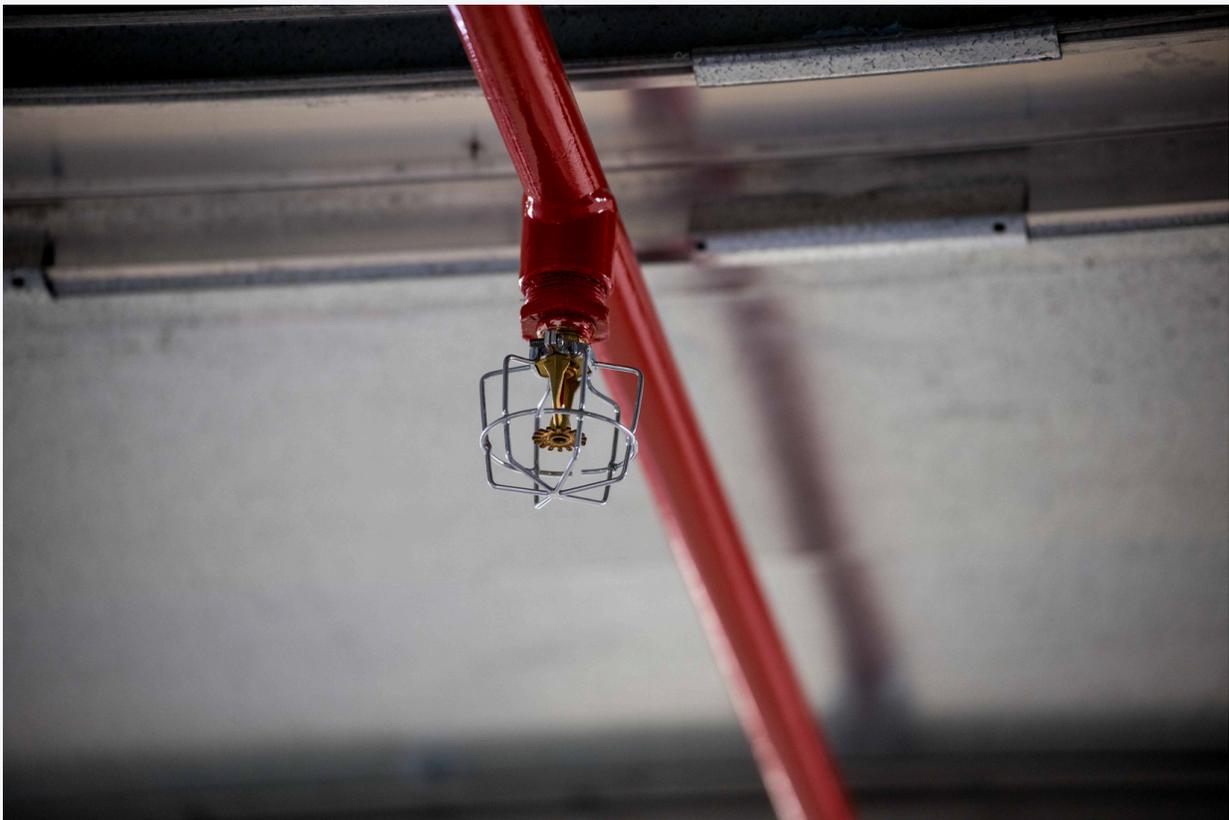
Questions

Do you have any suggestions for the most effective and efficient way to apply for fire protection industry permits (licences)?

We're particularly interested in ideas that could help streamline the application process, improve accessibility, reduce administrative burden, and ensure clarity for applicants.

Do you support the implementation of a secure, online-based application process for fire protection permits (licences), supported by access to advice and guidance from customer support officers?

This approach could improve efficiency, enhance user experience, and ensure applicants have the support they need throughout the process.



3. Audit, Compliance and Systems

It has been identified that the fire protection industry in Tasmania requires greater support in fire safety, auditing, and compliance to ensure minimum standards are consistently met.

This includes:

- Active onsite audits conducted by TFS to verify that fire protection systems are installed, serviced, and maintained in accordance with Australian Standards and industry benchmarks.
- Verification of permit holders' work, ensuring that those authorised to operate within the fire protection industry are performing tasks that align with regulatory expectations.
- Modernisation of the *Fire Protection Industry Code of Practice*, maintaining it as the central benchmark for professional conduct, technical standards, and compliance requirements.

These measures aim to enhance accountability, improve safety outcomes, and support a more consistent and transparent regulatory environment.

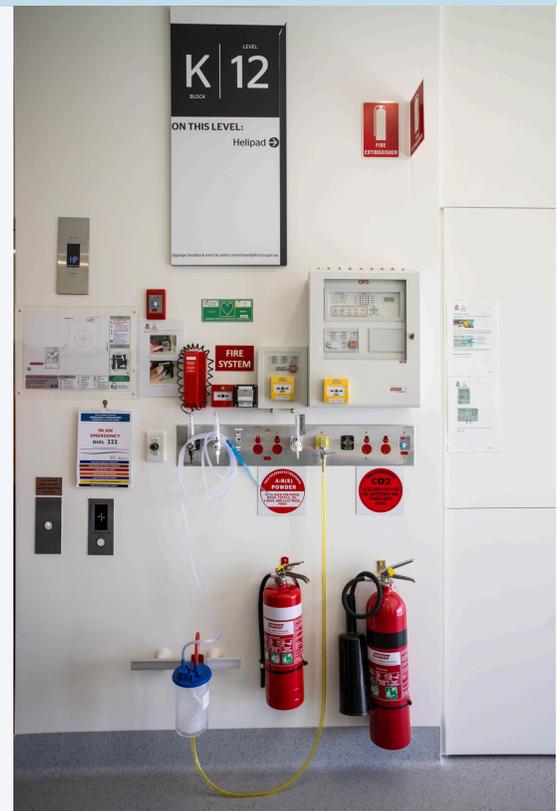
Questions

How might TFS enhance its services to ensure fire protection professionals consistently meet industry standards and operate within the Code of Practice?

We're particularly interested in ideas that could strengthen oversight, improve support for practitioners, and promote accountability —such as enhanced auditing, clearer guidance, or better access to training and resources.

Do you believe TFS needs to enhance its audit and compliance capabilities to better support regulatory oversight of the fire protection industry?

We're particularly interested in views on whether increased auditing, more frequent inspections, or improved compliance tools could help ensure industry standards are consistently met



4. Industry Engagement

Stakeholder feedback has highlighted the importance of strengthening industry engagement through:

- Targeted training and professional development.
- Clear and accessible education resources.
- Improved communication channels between regulators and practitioners.

Modernising the *Fire Protection Industry Code of Practice* and maintaining it as the central benchmark for professional standards may be key to supporting this approach and ensuring alignment with Australian Standards.

Question

How can training, education, and communication within the fire protection industry be enhanced to better support practitioners and align with evolving standards and regulations?

We're particularly interested in views on improvements to communication between regulators and industry professionals, and what types of training or professional development would be most beneficial for practitioners.

5. Communication and transparency in decision-making

There is a perceived lack of clear, consistent, and transparent policies and processes governing licensing, compliance, and auditing within Tasmania's fire protection industry.

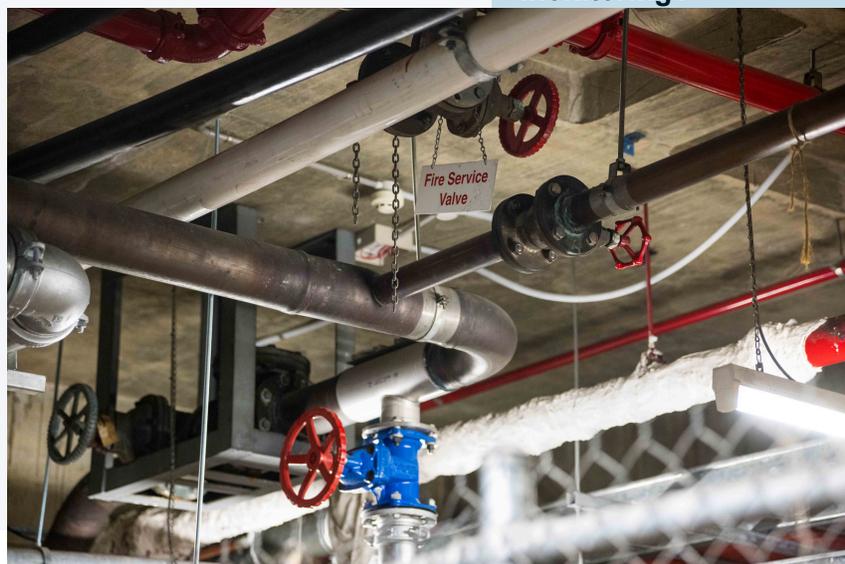
Stakeholders have raised concerns about the effectiveness and integrity of current regulatory mechanisms, particularly the role of the industry permit committee, which may give rise to potential conflicts of interest.

Questions

Do you believe the current occupational licensing and permitting system provides a clear, efficient, and effective framework for regulating fire protection professionals in Tasmania?

What changes or improvements would you recommend to strengthen transparency, accountability, and compliance?

Do you have any comments on the current policies and processes regulating the fire protection industry in Tasmania, particularly in relation to auditing practices and compliance monitoring?



6. Other Information

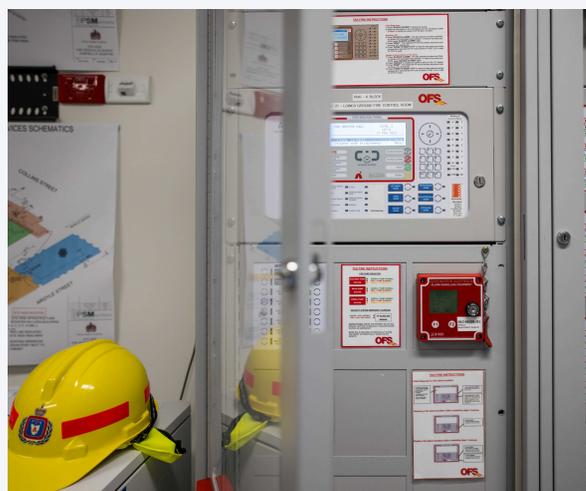
To ensure the regulatory framework effectively safeguards building occupants and the broader community, reform of Tasmania's fire protection industry may be necessary.

These reforms could encompass a range of areas, including licensing, compliance monitoring, auditing practices, and the governance structures involved in permit approvals.

Strengthening these elements may help enhance transparency, accountability, and alignment with national standards, while supporting a more consistent and efficient regulatory environment.

Question

Is there any additional feedback or information you would like to share regarding the regulation of the fire protection industry in Tasmania, including any aspects not already covered such as auditing, compliance, licensing, or governance?



Invitation for Submissions

The Tasmania Fire Service invites written submissions in response to the public consultation paper.

Feedback can be emailed to: cfsadmin@fire.tas.gov.au

Submissions close at: 30 January 2026



Publishing Submissions

The Tasmanian Government is dedicated to upholding transparency and openness in public consultation processes. To ensure consistency, departments follow a standardised approach when it comes to publishing submissions. This commitment aligns with the community's expectations of having access to information that informs the Government's decision-making on significant policy matters. Results from the consultation will be published after consultation at <https://fire.tas.gov.au> except in cases where it is deemed not in the public interest to release the information (e.g., to protect sensitive information) or when submitters explicitly request confidentiality. Only the organisational information (government, non-government, internal to DPFEM, or external to DPFEM) of the submitter will be published, with no personal details disclosed. For further information, please read the Tasmanian Government Public Submissions Policy ([external link](#)).

For Further information please contact the Community Fire Safety Division, Tasmania Fire Service at cfsadmin@fire.tas.gov.au or on 03 6166 5606