

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

STEVEN GEORGE SMITH

1. I have 23 years service with Strathclyde Fire & Rescue (formerly Strathclyde Fire Brigade). I am currently Watch Manager A at Kirkintilloch Fire Station. I have held a number of operational posts throughout my service.
2. In August 2001 I was a Sub-Officer based at Cowcaddens Fire Station, Glasgow. Part of my duties was to conduct routine fire certificate inspections under the Fire Precautions Act 1971.
3. I remember going to the premises to carry out an inspection under Section 8 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971. These inspections were carried out by operational staff at the nearest station. The operational staff were advised by the Fire Safety department of the premises that required to be inspected. I would then have made an appointment with a suitable member of staff at the premises. An appointment would have been made approximately one week before the inspection to advise the premises were to be inspected and to ensure that the relevant documents were ready for inspection by the attending Fire Officer.
4. I am shown the Fire Certificate Premises file relating to ICL Plastics Ltd [ICL/012298-012315] and see that I attended the premises on 3 August 2001 [ICL/012301]. I made a routine inspection visit to the above premises. I visited the premises on my own but only remember that it was compliant. It was the first time I had been there. I recall that it was an older type property, characterful.
5. A normal inspection process involved checking the premises against the existing fire certificate, looking at the company logbook

to check they were testing their alarm and carrying out evacuations and staff training I checked the plans to make sure everything was in place, that exit routes were clear and signage is ok I checked the company's copy of the Fire Certificate matched the Fire Brigade's copies (there are generally 2 copies kept by the Fire Service i.e. the "routine" copy used by officers conducting premises visits and the original retained within the relevant local Fire Safety Department).

6. During the tour of a building I noted any changes not shown on the Fire Certificate documentation/CAD plans. Later I would check with the Fire Safety Department to ensure that any such changes were known about and referred to in ongoing correspondence.
7. The inspection generally took about an hour.
8. I see from the premises file that on 8 August 2001, a Strathclyde Fire Brigade FPA22 letter was sent by the Fire Safety Inspectorate to ICL Plastics [ICL/12301] confirming that my inspection had found the fire precautions within the premises were satisfactory and that all requirements imposed by the fire certificate were being complied with.. I had no reason to change/update the Fire Certificate CAD plans. [ICL/011845-011847]
9. If the inspection is satisfactory and no alterations required to be made, an FPA22 was issued. If alterations were required, an FPA21 was issued and the owner/occupier of the premises would be sent details of the contraventions and how they should be rectified.
10. I am asked if an inspecting Fire Officer would ever check the company's risk assessment referred to on the reverse page of the FPA22 dated 8 August 2001 [ICL/012301-012302]. This was not part of the documentation that I required to check. The

documentation that was considered was the log book and the fire certificate.

11. I am asked if I am aware of ICL Plastics Ltd requesting any guidance from the Fire Brigade to assist them with their risk assessment. I am not aware of any such request. If it was requested they would most likely have contacted the Fire Safety Department.
12. I am shown the Fire Safety Risk Categorisation Form [ICL/012307-012308] completed at the same time as my inspection of the ICL premises on 3rd August 2001. The form was completed to assess a rating based on a points system. The points result in a grading. In this case they were graded D. I do not know what the grading D means in relation to the action that should be taken. But I am aware that the grading determined the frequency with which the identified premises required to be re-inspected. This form would have been returned by me to the Fire Safety Department.
13. This was the only occasion that I visited the premises of ICL Plastics Ltd.

Basement

14. I am asked about the basement of the premises. I do not remember seeing or being aware of a basement. I saw nothing to indicate there was a basement.. I purely followed the information on the Fire Certificate CAD plans, which do not show a basement. I don't know why the plans do not incorporate the basement.
15. If I had discovered a basement whilst inspecting any property I would have looked at the basement to consider what it was used for and then gone back to the Fire Safety Department to see if they

were aware of the basement and to ensure that it formed part of the building that was being inspected and not another building.

16. LPG pipework is not something that was included within the remit of a fire certificate inspection.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true

Witness signature _____

Dated _____