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UNITED KINGDOM
ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE INVESTIGATORS®

Key Changes

Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions - Third Edition 2026

1		NEW SECTION 7.4.9 Laboratory confirmation of samples taken based on hydrocarbon detector readings, dog indications and odour-based suspicions before forensic reporting.
2		NEW SECTION 2.5 The Code is focussed on “proximal” cause of fire, i.e. what directly caused the fire. It does not address ultimate or indirect causes such as human or organisational factors.
3		DIGITAL SCENE RECORDING Formal recognition of LIDAR, scans, visualisations and advanced scene reconstruction technologies.
4		EXPANDED HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE AND DECONTAMINATION REQUIREMENTS Introduction of explicit RPE, welfare and decontamination obligations.
5		PEER REVIEW AND CRITICAL FINDINGS REVIEW CHANGES A more flexible approach to independent review and peer review competence requirements.
6		ENHANCED REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS Signed drafts, location-specific photography, additional disclosure obligations and clearer expert witness expectations.

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