

Circular number	46/2007	Date issued	26 October 2007
This circular is	For Action by FRSs	Response Required by	07 December 2007
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular asks that Fire and Rescue Services undertake a detailed asset inventory check on the New Dimension equipment and vehicles they host.		

Asset Inventory Check for New Dimension Equipment and Vehicles.

Issued by:

Peter Morphew
New Dimension Programme Manager

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Senior Operations Managers

Summary

This circular informs Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) that they will shortly receive a letter containing the full asset inventory list for New Dimension (ND) equipment and vehicles. It requests that each FRS undertake a thorough inventory check to ensure the ND assets they host contain all the equipment as listed, or notify us where there are any disparities. This will help to inform the proposed Transfer of Ownership Agreement, in which CLG intends to transfer ownership of ND assets to individual Fire and Rescue Authorities by 1 April 08.

For further information, contact:

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New Dimension Policy Advisor
Fire and Resilience Directorate
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Website www.communities.gov.uk

Asset Inventory Check for New Dimension Equipment and Vehicles.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The New Dimension (ND) programme, as a collaboration between Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), has enhanced the ability of the FRS to respond to major disruptive events involving CBRN materials, collapsed or unstable structures, and to displace large volumes of water.
- 1.2 Through this programme a substantial amount of assets have been delivered to FRSs, including hundreds of vehicles and thousands of pieces of equipment. Fire Service Circular (FSC) 37/2007 recently asked FRSs to confirm that they are in possession of the ND assets as detailed in the Circular or to notify us where they were any discrepancies.
- 1.3 Following FSC 37/2007, this Circular requests that each FRS undertake a thorough inventory check to ensure the ND assets they host contain all the necessary equipment. This will help to inform the proposed Transfer of Ownership Agreement, in which CLG intends to transfer ownership of ND assets to individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) by 1 April 2008.

2.0 New Dimension Asset Inventories

- 2.1 Each FRS will shortly receive a letter from CLG enclosing a full inventory of ND assets. The letter will request FRSs to undertake a detailed check on their ND equipment, cross-referencing against the inventory list which we will provide.
- 2.2 Please note that the inventory list is being sent directly to individual FRSs, rather than appended to this Circular owing to the sensitive nature of the information it contains, which would not be appropriate to release in such detail into the public domain.
- 2.3 FRSs are asked to confirm that they have the full inventory for each of the assets they host. Where it is believed there are any discrepancies, please notify us accordingly. A reply should be sent to Fay Sowerby, whose contact details are provided above. We appreciate that for some FRSs with significant amounts of ND kit, this may take a little while to complete. Therefore we ask that replies are received by **30 November 2007**.
- 2.4 We are aware that the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Module 2 is currently being rolled out and some host FRSs will not have yet received this. However, the current USAR roll-out plan indicates that all these modules will be delivered by early November and the four original Module 2's delivered to London, Merseyside, Hampshire and Leicestershire FRSs, will be re-stowed and delivered back to these services by 20th November. On this basis it should be possible for an inventory check to be undertaken on all Module 2's by the 30 November deadline. If further time is required, please inform Fay Sowerby accordingly.
- 2.5 We have not included the Enhanced Command Support (ECS) vehicles on the inventory list as these vehicles are still on the production line and their distribution is being finalised. Bardonia (the ND warehousing and maintenance facility), will introduce acceptance procedures for the future issue of these vehicles and FRSs will, at the point of delivery, need to confirm they have received the full inventory for these assets.

2.6 Furthermore, the ND asset inventory check will not be necessary for any of the equipment that is currently held temporarily by FRSs, which will be recovered by the programme before the transfer of assets is enacted.

3.0 Transfer of Ownership - Next Steps

3.1 Completion of asset inventory checks is required to ensure that all FRSs have the necessary equipment associated with their ND assets. This will inform the proposed Transfer of Ownership Agreement, in which CLG proposes to legally transfer ownership of ND assets to individual FRAs.

3.2 CLG has recently undertaken discussions with LGA, CFOA and the Fire Lawyers Network (FLN) on the draft Transfer of Ownership Agreement for ND assets. We are currently incorporating the comments received and will be shortly circulating a draft of the Agreement to individual FRAs, via a Circular, to obtain views. Legal transfer of ownership will be enacted on 1 April 2008, subject to agreement with FRAs.

Peter Morpew
New Dimension Programme Manager