

**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



Fire Safety Guidance

**FOR
HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**

HOW THIS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT IS TO BE USED

This document is intended to give guidance on relevant fire safety provisions that the Local Authority, in consultation with the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, regard as a minimum in private housing including houses in multiple occupation. This guidance is not a prescriptive standard and should not be used as such, any design of systems and necessary fire precautions should take into account a suitable fire risk assessment.

This document is a generalised guide to the minimum fire precautions and means of escape in a range of typical houses in multiple occupation. More detailed guidance is provided in the LACORS document:- HOUSING – Fire Safety guidance on fire safety provisions for certain types of existing housing, or if applicable the Fire Safety in Purpose-built Flats Guide published by the Local Government Association. Further specific advice should be sought on any issues you are unsure about or situations where the premise has an unusual or more complex layout.

Owners and managers should also be aware of the relevant sections of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The guidance document for fire safety risk assessments for sleeping accommodation provides information about conducting a fire risk assessment. For more information see www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

The fire risk assessment must be in writing where the premises are licensed or where 5 or more persons are employed to work. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service advise that all fire risk assessments should be recorded.

Owners and managers should have regard to the relevant parts of the latest edition of British Standards BS5839 (fire alarm), BS5266 (emergency lighting) and others as stated in this document.

The existing fire safety standards in the property may not be the same as those recommended, but as long as you can demonstrate that they meet an equivalent standard of fire safety, they are likely to be acceptable. If it is found that your existing arrangements are not satisfactory there may be other ways to comply with the requirements.

To help landlords understand the technical aspects of the guide each section is accompanied by a diagram showing typical layouts.

In relation to enforcement of fire safety the local authority will assess the risk under the Housing Act 2004, Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and take the most appropriate action, that being to serve a Hazard Awareness Notice, Improvement Notice or Prohibition Notice. However without prejudice to individual circumstances, it is unlikely that enforcement action would normally be taken against a property that complied with the recommendations of this guidance. Attached is a copy of the local authority Enforcement Policy

https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/downloads/file/892/housing_enforcement_policy

In some circumstances the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority may take enforcement action.

Please note that in respect of Houses in Multiple Occupation a 'Shared House' would normally be a dwelling occupied by a group of employees, students, friends or other related groups whilst a 'Bedsit' would normally constitute a number of separate tenancies who are relatively independent of each other.

For all new build properties or listed buildings, please consult your local authority building control department.

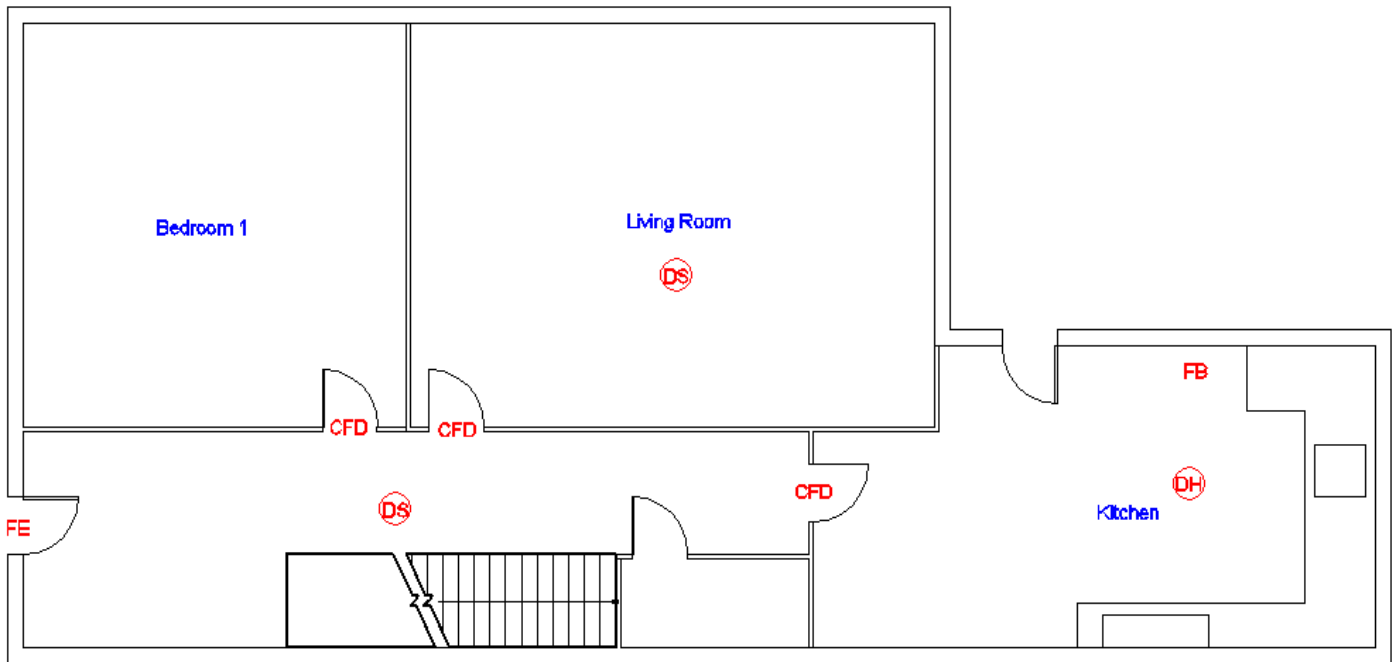
1. TWO STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**Shared House for up to 6 occupiers**

This type of accommodation is generally thought to represent less risk than bedsit and hostel type accommodation and therefore if the owner can provide suitable evidence via a risk assessment that the management and subsequent risks have been reduced the following standards should be acceptable.

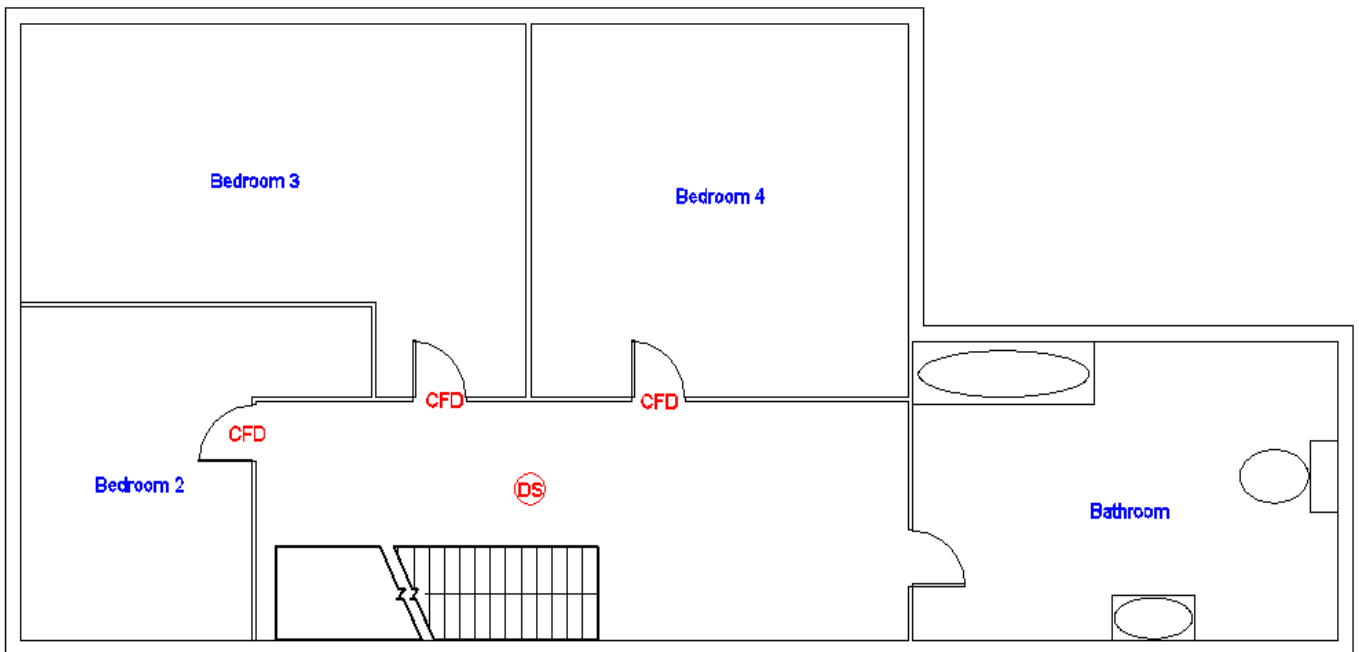
1. Automatic Fire Detection – Interlinked hard-wired smoke detectors with integral battery back up located at each level within the staircase enclosure linked to a smoke detector in the living room and to a heat detector in the kitchen (BS 5839: Part 6) Cellars to have detection if present.
2. Sound, close fitting doors of conventional construction (not lightweight doors or doors with very thin panels) to all rooms off the escape route. It is recommended that fire doors should be fitted to kitchens and/or communal living rooms exiting on to the means of escape.
3. Sound, conventional construction to the escape route.
4. Where construction standards are poor, travel distances are long or other high risk factors are present, a 30 minute protected route may be required.
5. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example. A Yale type lock or thumb turn lock on the final exit door).
6. Fire fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to the shared kitchen to comply with BS EN 1869.
 - Recommendation for 1 x 13A fire extinguisher to the ground floor entrance area and first floor landing (not dry powder).
7. A satisfactory layout and means of escape should be provided for the building. Ideally the means of escape should be directly to a final exit door and not pass through a room. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example staircase leading down into a kitchen) then an escape window at first floor level accessible to all occupants should be provided and where practical a fire door fitted to the bottom of the stair to separate the kitchen from the stair. The provision of a fire door at the base of the stair is not necessary if all first floor rooms have access to an escape window without having to go across the top of an open stairway.

EXAMPLE: 2 STOREY SHARED HOUSE UP TO 6 OCCUPIERS

Ground floor



First floor



2. TWO STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

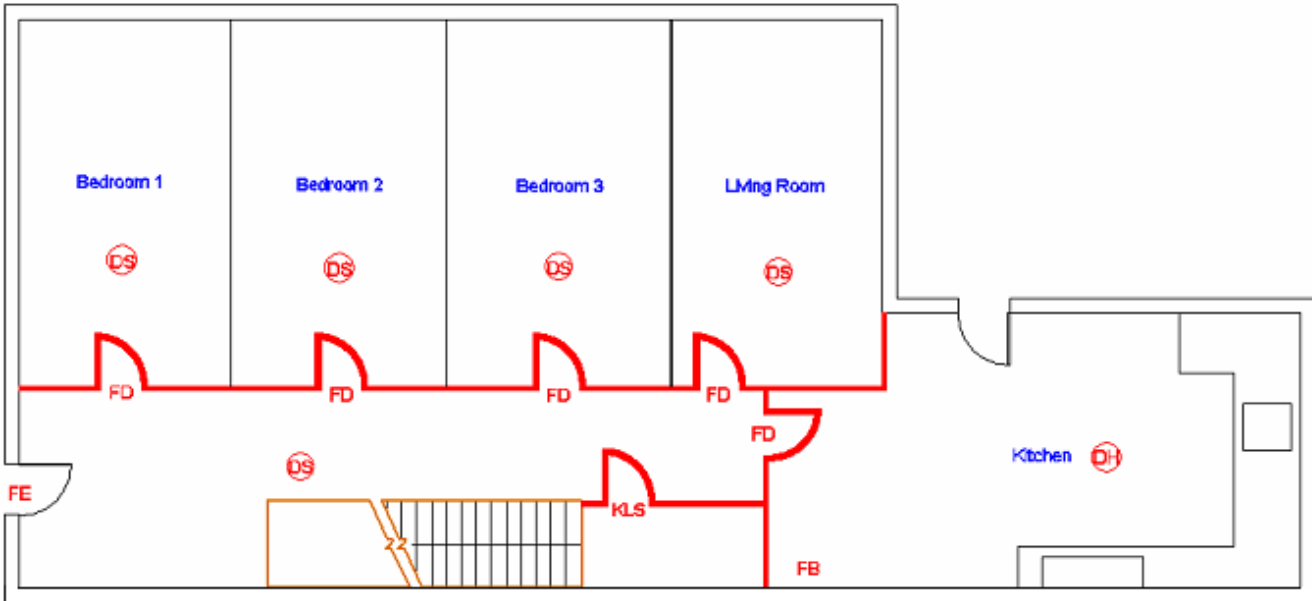
Shared House of 7 or more occupiers

This type of accommodation is generally thought to represent less of a risk than bedsit or hostel accommodation but an increase in the number of occupants is likely to increase the risks above those in a small shared house. Therefore if the owner can provide suitable evidence via a risk assessment that the management and subsequent risks have been reduced the following standards should be acceptable.

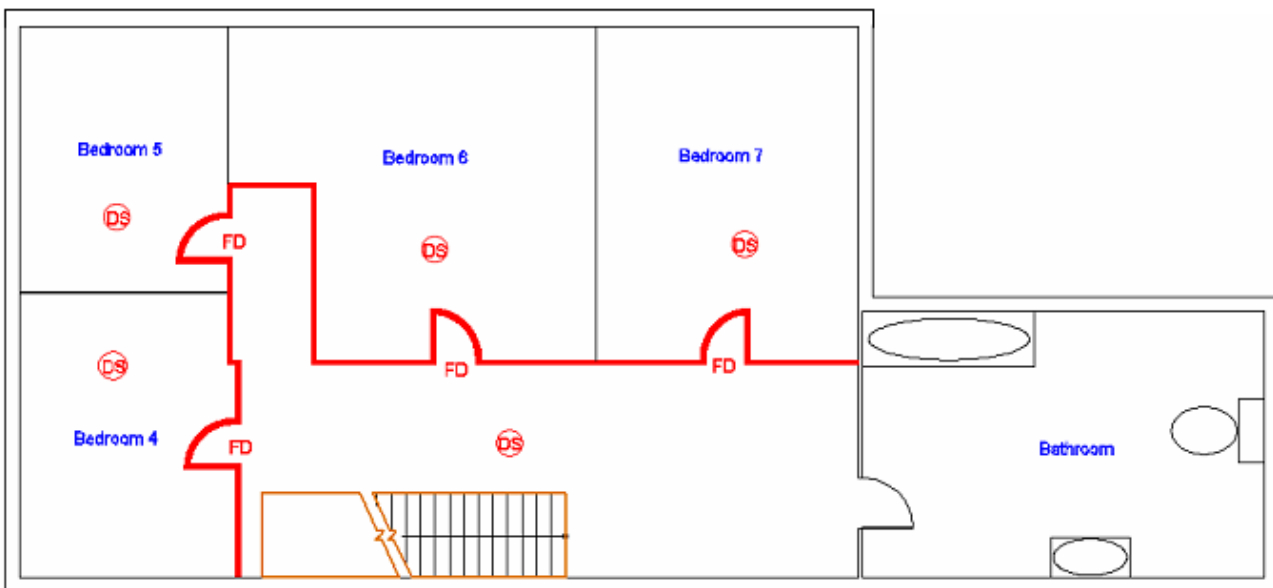
1. Automatic Fire Detection (AFD) – interlinked hard-wired smoke detectors (heat detector to kitchen) with integral battery back up within the staircase enclosure, rooms accessed from the staircase enclosure (with the exception of the bathroom/WC) (Include all bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms and cellar (if present) and any corridors used as the escape route. (BS: 5839 Part 1 and BS: 5839 Part 6).
2. Fire doors to all rooms leading onto a means of escape (with the exception of bathrooms/WC)
3. Walls to the ground floor kitchen and to the staircase enclosure to be ½ hour fire resistant. Ground floor ceilings to the kitchen and staircase enclosure to be ½ hour fire resistant.
4. Stairs to be underdrawn to provide ½ hour fire resistance and under stairs cupboards to have ½ hour fire resistant doors and lining or the cupboard to be taken out of permanent use. Where a smoke detector (linked to the system) is fitted in the cupboard a fire door to the cupboard is not required.
5. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type lock/thumb turn on the final exit).
6. Fire fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to the shared kitchen.
 - Recommended - 1 x 13A fire extinguisher to the ground floor entrance area and first floor landing (not dry powder).
7. A satisfactory layout and means of escape should be provided for the building. Ideally the means of escape should be directly to a final exit door and not pass through a room. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example staircase leading down into a kitchen) then an escape window at first floor level accessible to all occupants should be provided and a ½ hour fire door fitted to the bottom of the stair (where practical) to separate the kitchen from the stair. The provision of a fire door at the base of the stair is not necessary if all first floor rooms have access to an escape window without having to go across the top of an open stairway. In addition where the escape route is not ideal and exit route is complex consideration will be given to the provision of emergency lighting.

EXAMPLE: 2 STOREY SHARED HOUSE 7 OR MORE OCCUPIERS

Ground floor



First floor



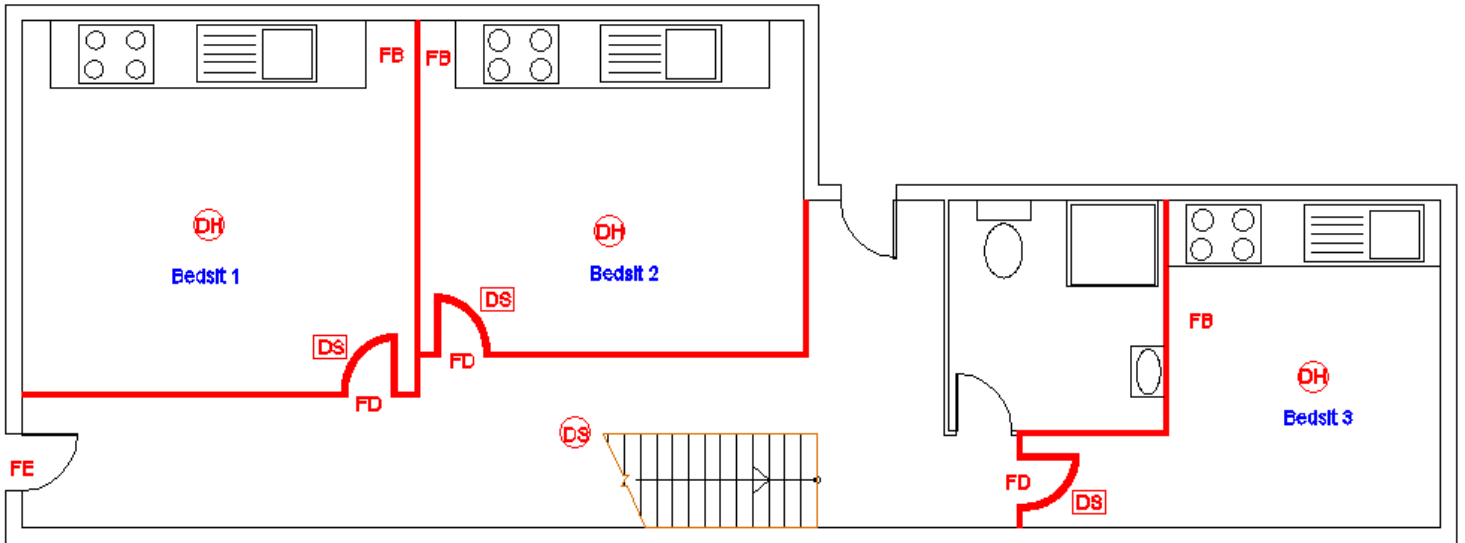
3. TWO STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Bedsits

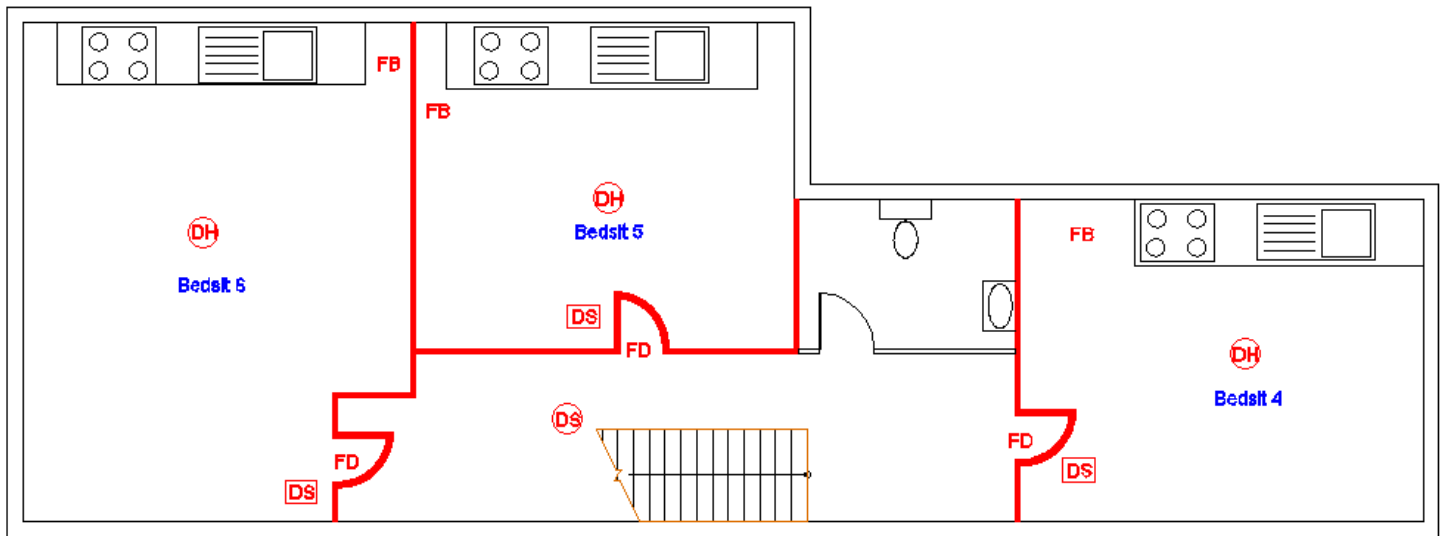
1. Fire Detection –Grade D system, BS 5839 Part 6.
 - Without cooking facilities
LD2 coverage - Interlinked mains wired smoke alarms located throughout the escape route, to all bedsits and common areas and a heat detector to the kitchen.
 - With cooking facilities – Mixed system
Grade D: LD2 coverage – interlined mains wired smoke alarms located throughout the escape route and common areas and heat detectors in bedsits (interlinked)
Grade D smoke alarms in each bedsit to protect the sleeping occupants (non-interlinked)
2. Fire doors to all rooms that can be accessed from the staircase, (with the exception of the bathroom/WC).
3. Fire door to the kitchen in all layouts.
4. 30 minute protected route including wall and ceiling constructions to risk rooms.
5. Stairs to be under drawn to provide ½ hour fire resistance and under stairs cupboards to have ½ hour fire resistant doors and lining or the cupboard to be taken out of permanent use. Where a smoke detector (linked to the system) is fitted in the cupboard a fire door to the cupboard is not required.
6. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type/thumb turn lock on the final exit door).
7. Emergency lighting to the escape routes may be necessary when escape route is long or complex or lacking effective borrowed light.(British Standard 5266: Part 1).
8. Fire fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to each room where cooking takes place.
 - Recommended 1 x 13A fire extinguisher to the ground floor entrance area and first floor landing (not dry powder).
9. A satisfactory means of escape from the building should be provided. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example, the staircase leads down into the kitchen), then an alternative means of escape should be provided (for example construction of a corridor or lobby at ground floor level to ensure a protected route to the final exit, or the provision of escape windows to first floor rooms).

EXAMPLE: 2 STOREY BEDSITS

Ground floor



First floor



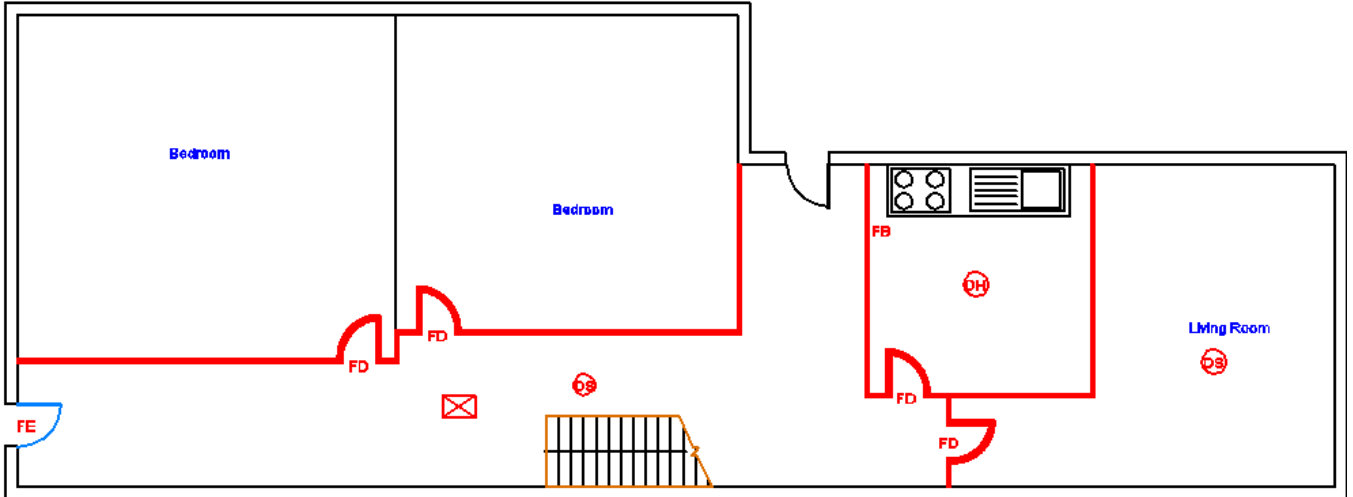
4. THREE OR FOUR STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Shared House of up to 6 occupiers

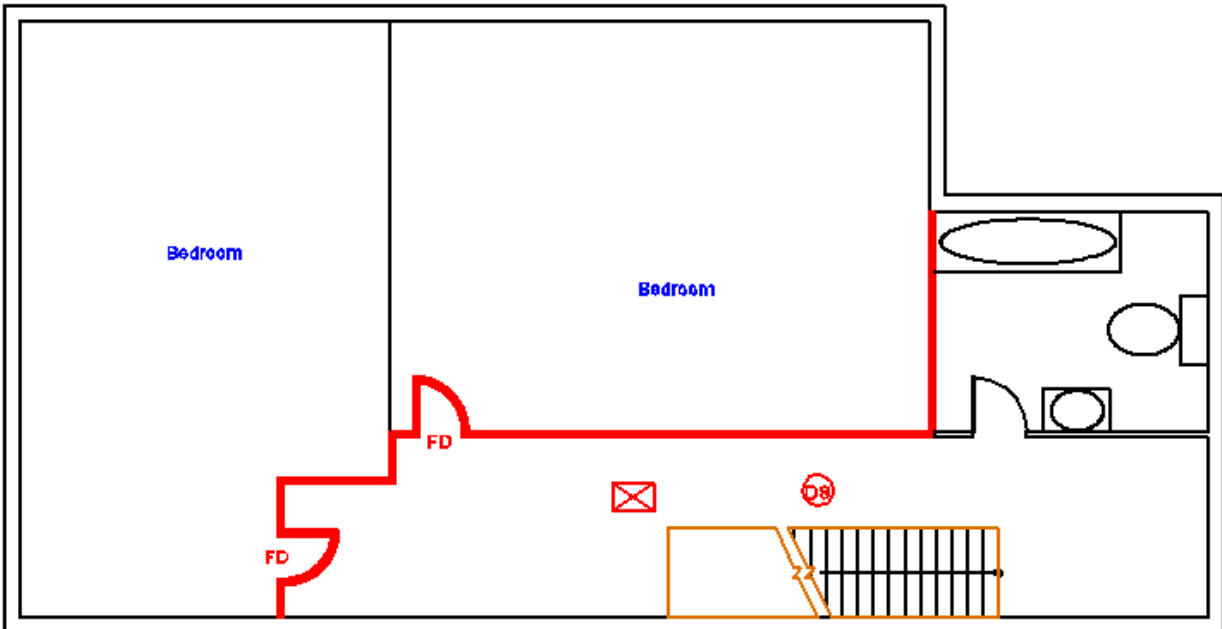
1. Provision of mains interlinked smoke detectors to the escape route at each level and to the living room interlinked with heat detector to the kitchen with integral battery back up. Interlinked detector to cellar if present. (Grade D BS 5839: Part 6). Ensure a minimum sound level of 75 decibels in all bedrooms.
2. **In three storey properties it may be acceptable to have a protected route and close fitting doors capable of achieving 20 minutes fire resistance, however when carrying out a full refurbishment or upgrade of the property the following standard should be considered.** A protected escape route should be provided i.e. ½ hour fire resistant doors to all rooms leading onto a means of escape (with the exception of bathrooms/WC), including fire doorsets to British Standard 8214 (where detection is not within bedrooms, smoke seals should not be fitted to fire doors). Higher risk sources shall also be protected by 30 minutes protection (for example electric meters in the escape route, under stairs cupboards.)
3. Stairs to be under drawn to provide ½ hour fire resistance and under stairs cupboards to have ½ hour fire resistant doors and lining or the cupboard to be taken out of permanent use. Where a smoke detector (linked to the system) is fitted in the cupboard a fire door to the cupboard is not required.
4. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type lock/thumb turn on the fire exit door).
5. An emergency lighting system should be provided to the protected escape route to comply with BS 5266 Part 1 where the route is long, complex or lacking effective borrowed light (this is not considered necessary where there are no communal stairways or other shared facilities above the first floor level).
6. Fire fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to each room where cooking takes place.
 - Recommended - 1 x 13A fire extinguisher to the ground floor entrance area, first floor landing and second floor landing (not dry powder).
7. A satisfactory layout and satisfactory means of escape from the building should be provided. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example, the staircase leads down into a kitchen), then an alternative means of escape should be considered (for example construction of a lobby/corridor at ground floor to ensure a protected route to the final exit, provision of an escape window at first floor level which is accessible to all occupants of the building).

EXAMPLE: 3 OR 4 STOREY SHARED HOUSE UP TO 6 OCCUPIERS

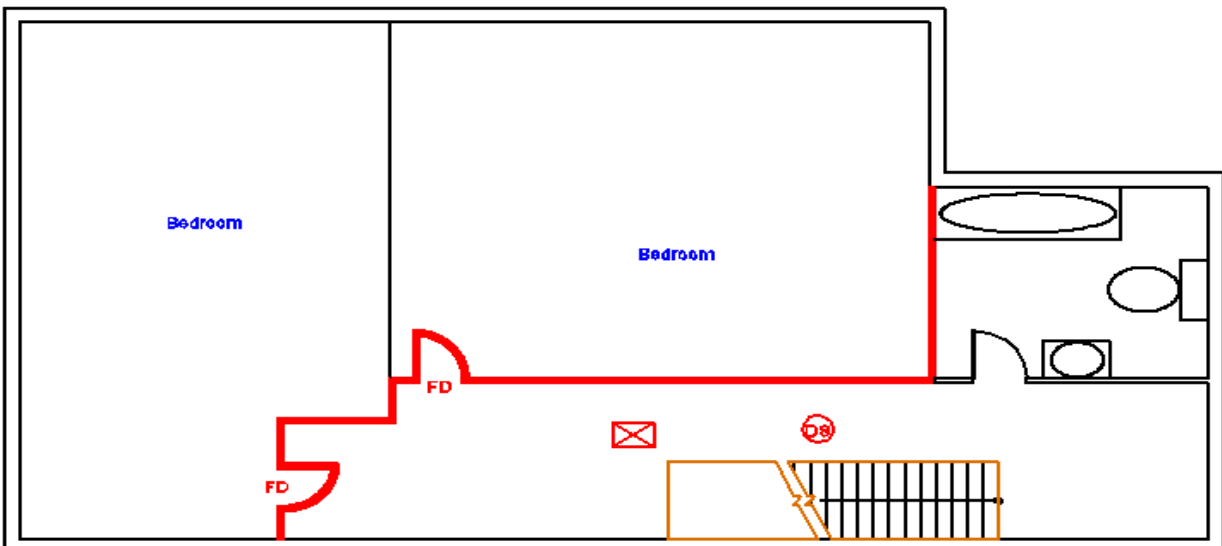
Ground floor



First floor



Second Floor

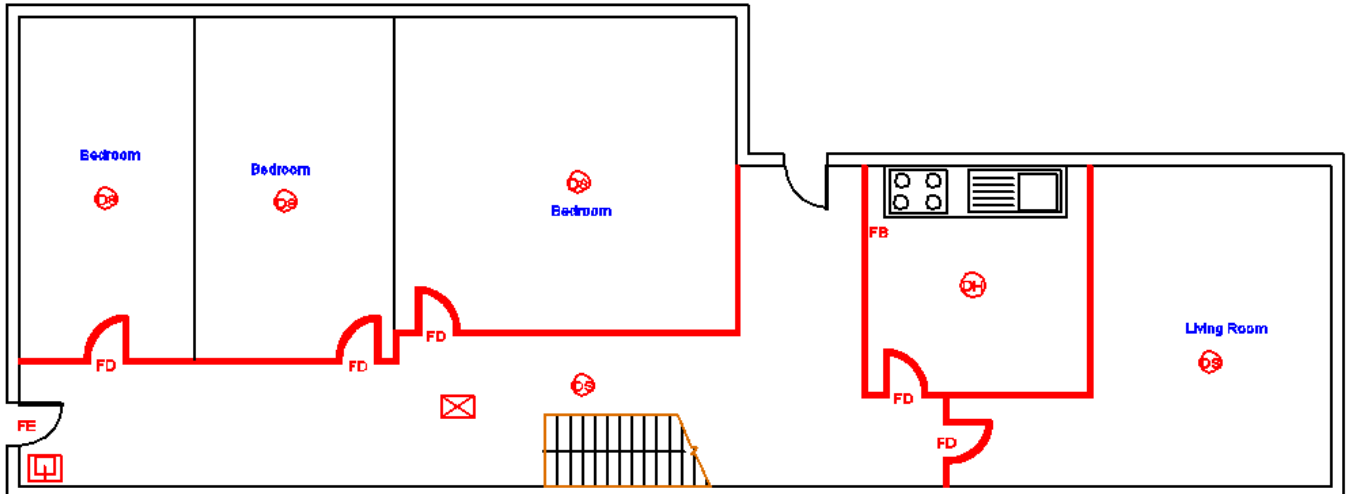


5. THREE OR FOUR STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**Shared Houses of 7 or more occupiers**

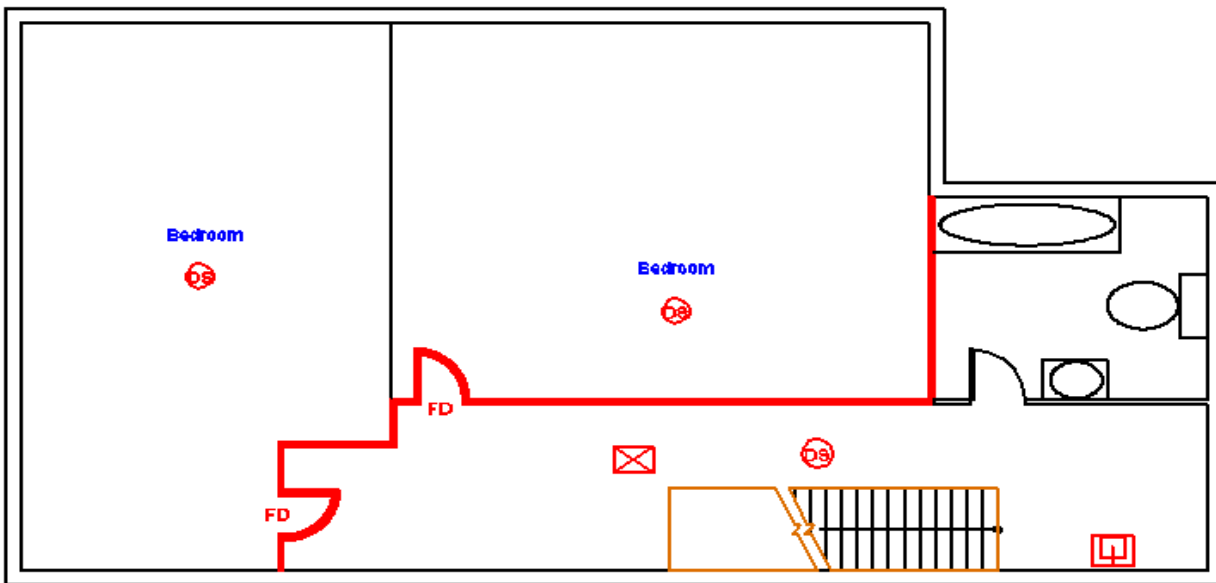
1. Automatic Fire Detection and alarm system throughout the building (staircase enclosure and lobbies and rooms leading off the staircase enclosure) (heat detectors as opposed to smoke detectors in all rooms with cooking facilities) (Grade A system in accordance with British Standard 5839: Part 1). Ensure a sound level of 75 decibels in all bedrooms.
2. Break glass call points to each floor.
3. A protected escape route should be provided i.e. ½ hour fire resistant doors to all rooms leading onto a means of escape (with the exception of bathrooms/WC), including fire doorsets to British Standard 8214. Higher risk sources shall also be protected by 30 minutes protection (for example electric meters in the escape route, under stairs cupboards.)
4. Stairs to be under drawn to provide ½ hour fire resistance and under stairs cupboards to have ½ hour fire resistant doors and lining or the cupboard to be taken out of permanent use. Where a smoke detector (linked to the system) is fitted in the cupboard a fire door to the cupboard is not required.
5. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type lock on the fire exit door
6. Emergency lighting to all escape routes which are long, complex or lacking effective borrowed light. (British Standard 5266: Part 1).
7. Fire Fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to each room where cooking takes place.
 - Recommended - 1 x 13A fire extinguisher located at ground floor entrance area, first floor landing, second floor landing and third floor landing (not dry powder).
8. A satisfactory layout and satisfactory means of escape from the building should be provided. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example, the staircase leads down into a kitchen), then an alternative means of escape should be considered (for example construction of a lobby/corridor at ground floor to ensure a protected route to the final exit, provision of an escape window at first floor level which is accessible to all occupants of the building).

EXAMPLE: 3 STOREY SHARED HOUSE OF 7 OR MORE OCCUPIERS

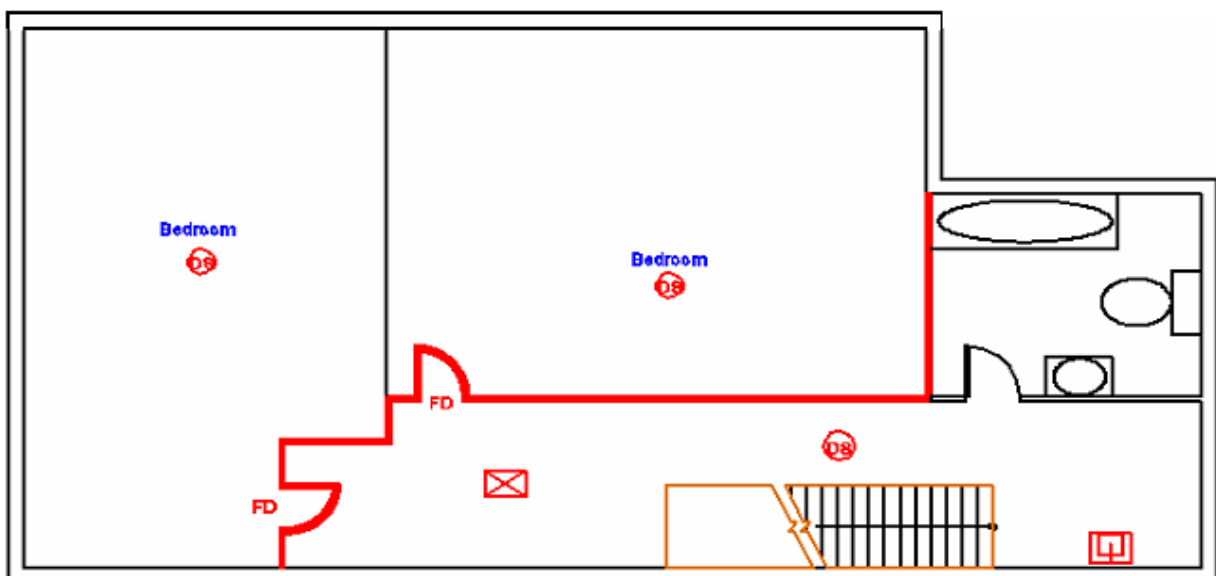
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor



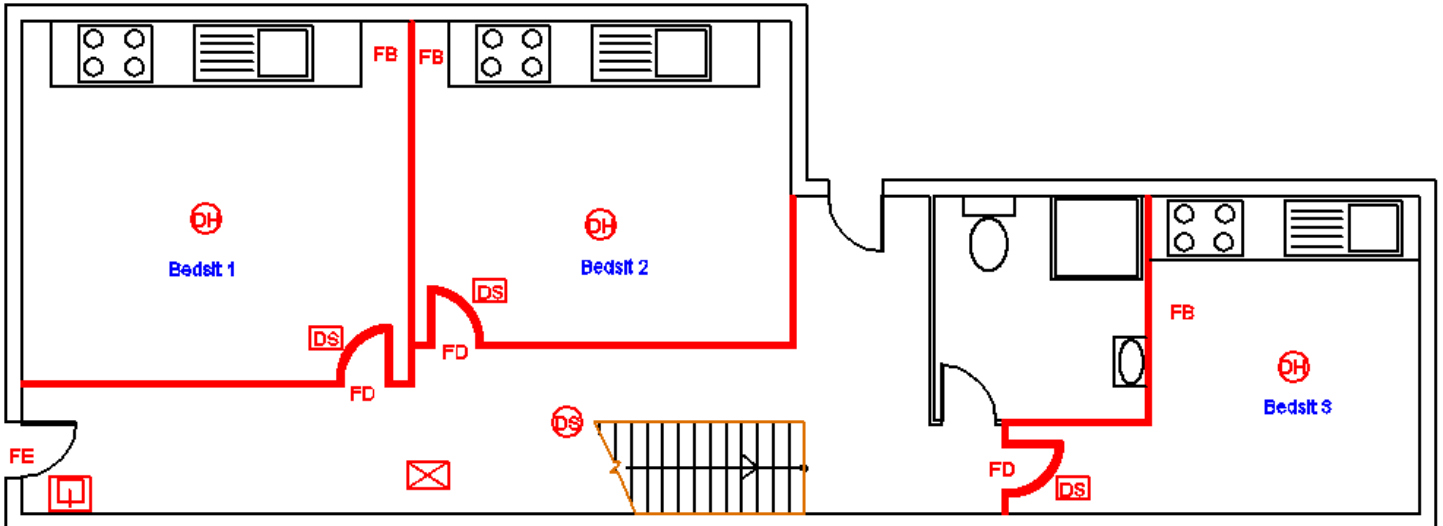
6. THREE OR FOUR STOREY HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Bedsits

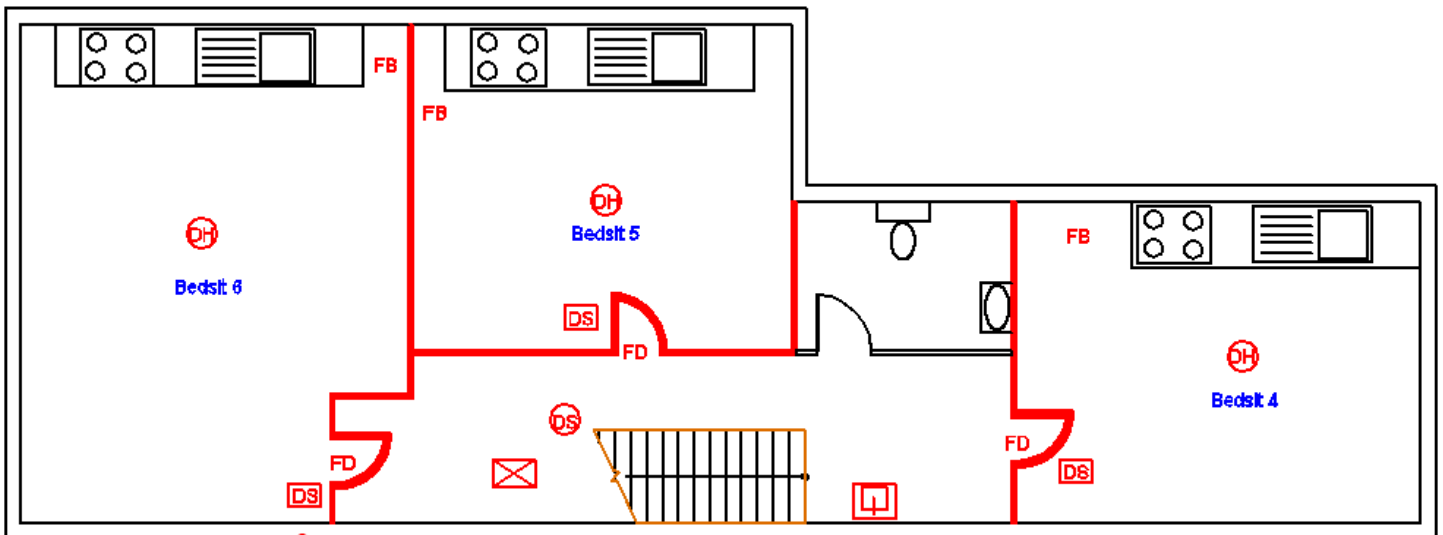
6. 1. Fire Detection –Grade A system, BS 5839 Part 6.
 - Without cooking facilities
LD2 coverage - Interlinked mains wired smoke alarms located throughout the escape route, to all bedsits and common areas and a heat detector to the kitchen.
 - With cooking facilities – Mixed system
Grade D: LD2 coverage – interlined mains wired smoke alarms located throughout the escape route and common areas and heat detectors in bedsits (interlinked)
Grade D smoke alarms in each bedsit to protect the sleeping occupants (non-interlinked)
2. Break glass call points to each floor.
3. Single door protection to the staircase enclosure, i.e. ½ hour fire resistant doors to all rooms that can be accessed from the staircase, (with the exception of the bathroom/WC).
4. Single door protection to all kitchens, i.e. ½ hour fire resistant doors.
5. Walls within the staircase enclosure to be ½ hour fire resistant. Ceilings to the kitchen and to the staircase enclosures to be ½ hour fire resistant, (Where cooking facilities are provided within rooms/or other high risk sources then the ceilings and all walls to these rooms to be ½ hour fire resistant).
6. Stairs to be under drawn to provide ½ hour fire resistance and under stairs cupboards to have ½ hour fire resistant doors and lining or the cupboard to be taken out of permanent use. Where a smoke detector (linked to the system) is fitted in the cupboard a fire door to the cupboard is not required.
7. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type lock on the fire exit door
8. Emergency lighting to all escape routes which are long, complex or lacking effective borrowed light. (British Standard 5266: Part 1).
9. Fire Fighting equipment:-
 - 1 x Fire blanket to each room where cooking takes place.
 - Recommended - 1 x 13A fire extinguisher located at ground floor entrance area, first floor landing, second floor landing and third floor landing (not dry powder).
10. A satisfactory layout and satisfactory means of escape from the building should be provided. Where the means of escape is not ideal (for example, the staircase leads down into a kitchen), then an alternative means of escape should be considered (for example construction of a lobby/corridor at ground floor to ensure a protected route to the final exit, provision of an escape window at first floor level which is accessible to all occupants of the building).

EXAMPLE: 3 STOREY BEDSITS

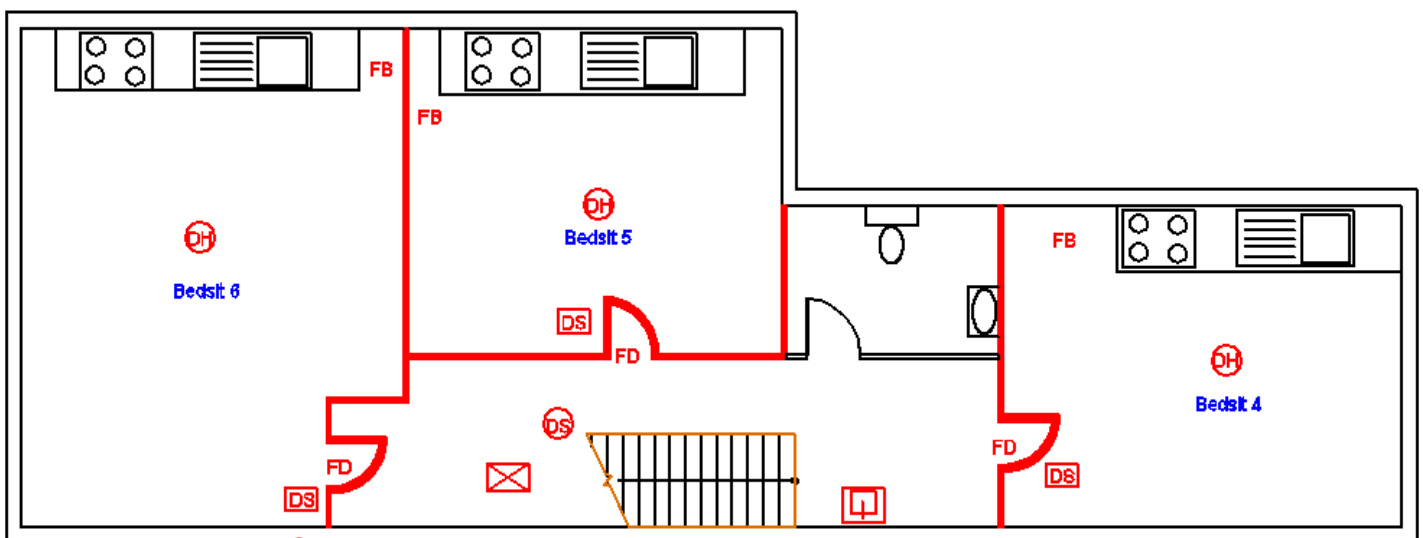
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor

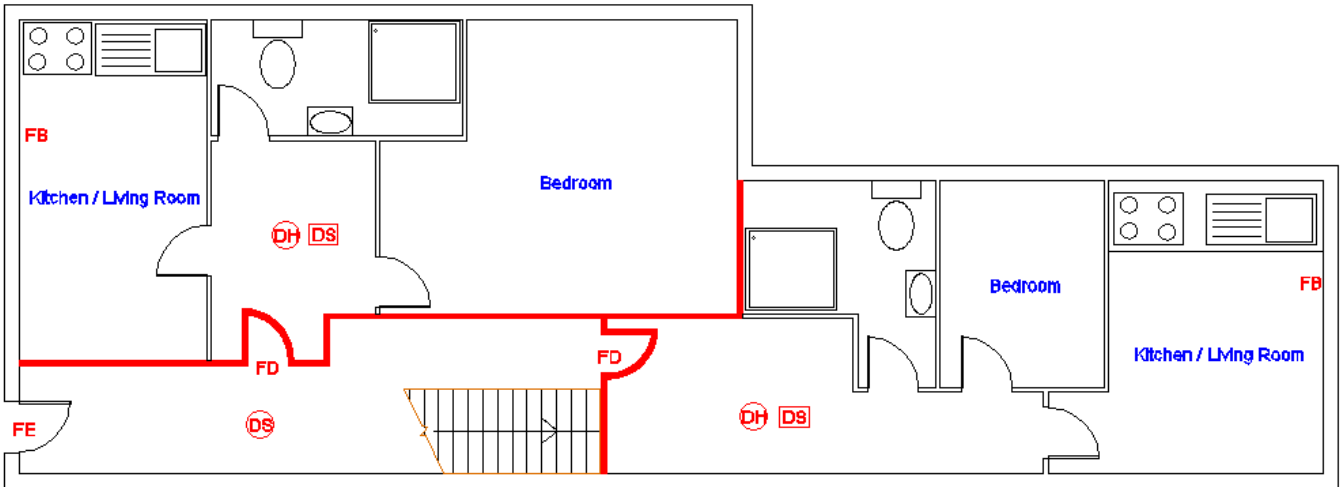


Where the travel distance within a flat is complex or greater than 9 metres, contact the relevant local authority or North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for further guidance.

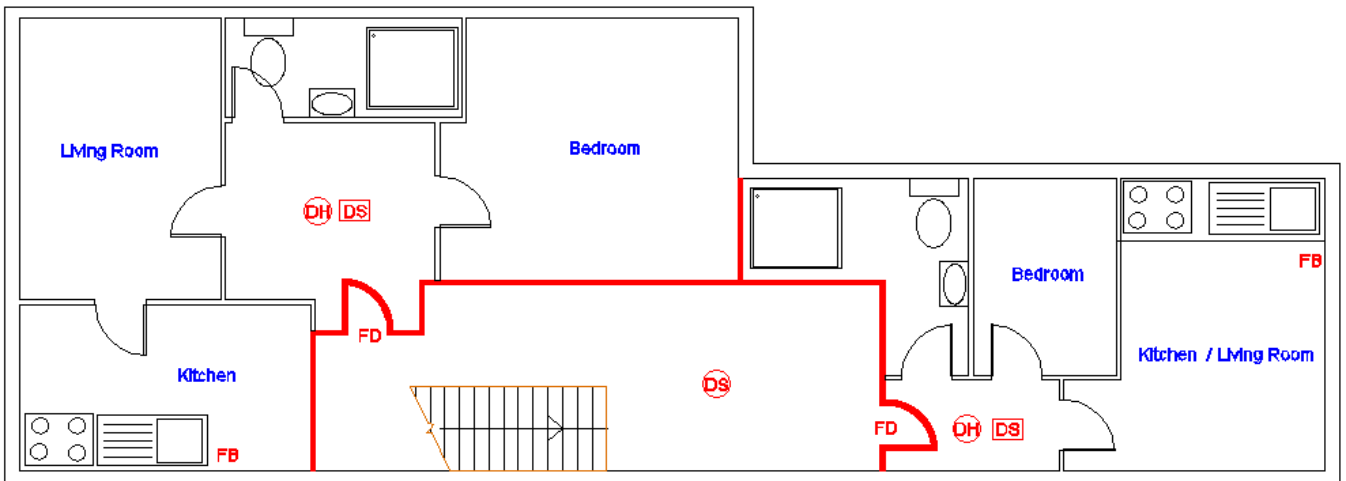
1. A mixed type fire alarm system shall be provided comprising a Grade D system to the common escape route (ie an interlinked smoke detector with integral battery back up at each level) and interlinked to a heat detector in the lobby/entrance of each flat. Non interlinked mains operated smoke alarms with integral battery back up in the lobby/entrance to each flat. (Grade D System, BS 5839 : Part 6).
2. A protected escape route of a minimum standard of ½ hour fire resistance should be provided from each flat, including fire doorsets to each flat entrance (British Standard 8214). Sound, well constructed and close fitting doors within each flat.
3. Separation between flats should be a minimum of ½ hour fire resistance.
4. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example a Yale type lock on the final exit door).
5. A fire blanket should be provided to the kitchen of each flat in accordance with BS EN 1869. Recommend 1 x 13A fire extinguisher on each floor in the common parts
5. Where the travel distance within a flat is greater than 9 metres, contact the relevant local authority or North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for further guidance.

EXAMPLE: 2 STOREY CONVERTED SELF CONTAINED FLATS

Ground floor



First floor



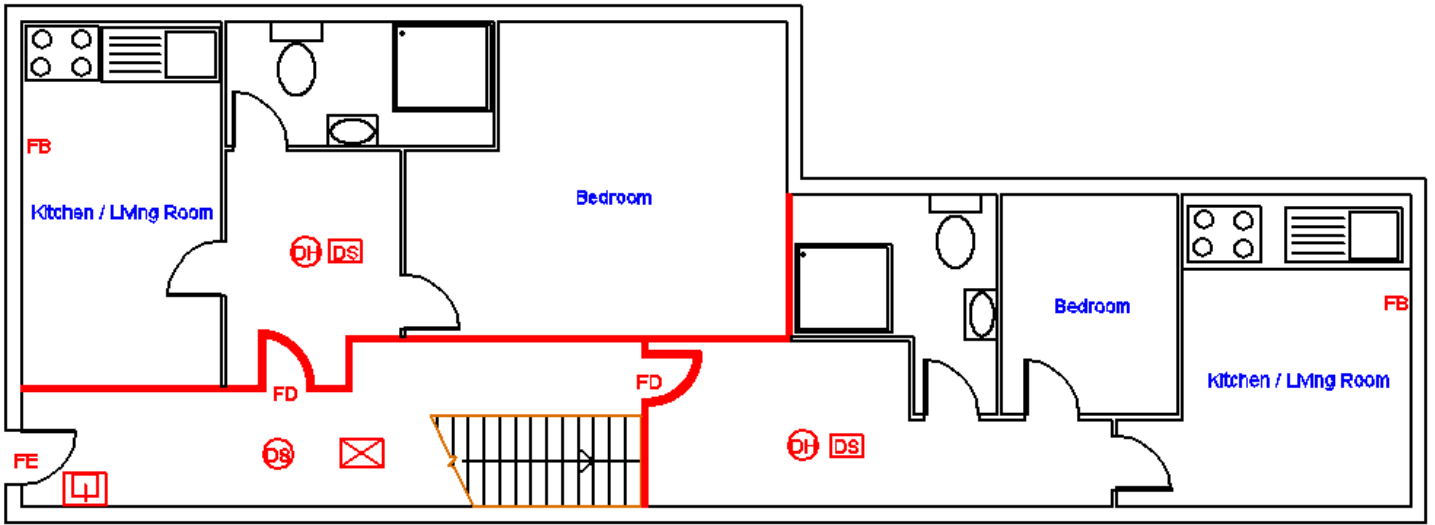
8. THREE STOREY BUILDINGS

Converted to self contained flats

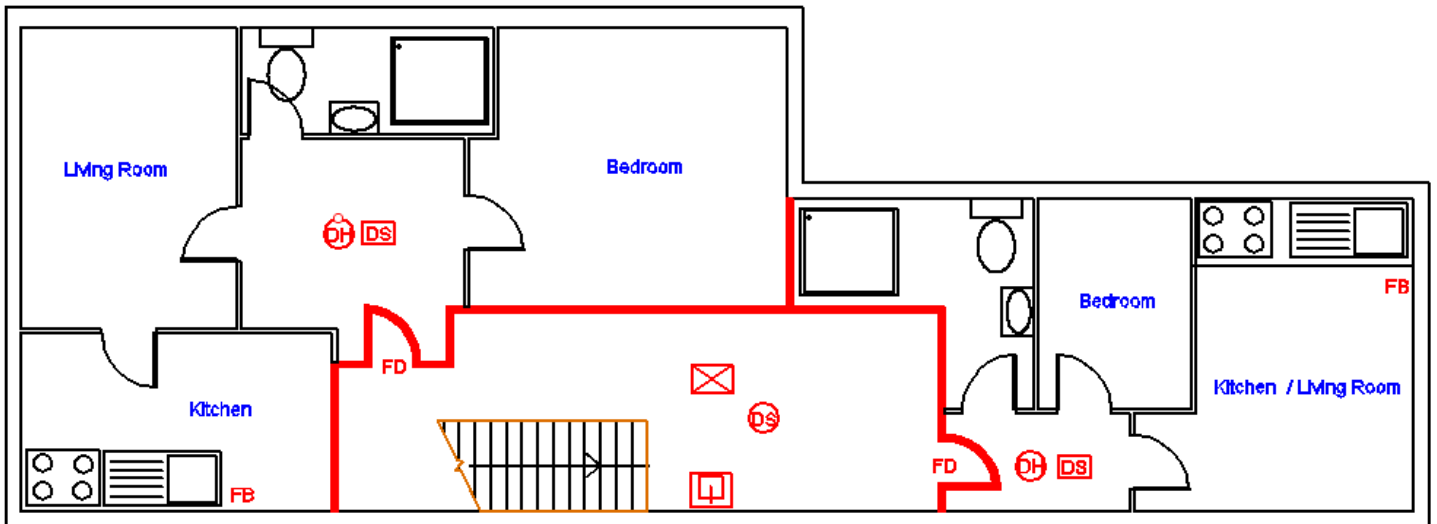
1. A mixed-type fire alarm system should be provided in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5839: Part 6. This would entail a Grade A (Part 1) system to the common escape route (incorporating control panel, smoke detectors and call points) and to each flat (interlinked to a heat detector). In addition there should be a separate independent Grade D system to each flat which may be a single mains operated smoke detector. (Parts 1 and 6, BS 5839)
2. A protected escape route of a minimum standard of ½ hour fire resistance should be provided from each flat including fire doorsets to BS 8214 to all flat entrances. Sound, conventional close fitting doors within each flat.
3. Separation between flats should be a minimum standard of ½ hour fire resistance.
4. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example a Yale type lock on the final exit door).
6. An emergency lighting system should be provided to the protected escape route in accordance with BS 5266: Part 1 where the route is long, complex or lacking effective borrowed light.
6. A fire blanket should be provided to the kitchen of each flat in accordance with BS EN 1869. Recommended – 1 x 13A fire extinguisher on each floor in the common parts.
7. Where the travel distance within a flat is greater than 9 metres, contact the relevant local authority or North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for further guidance.

EXAMPLE: 3 STOREY CONVERTED SELF CONTAINED FLATS

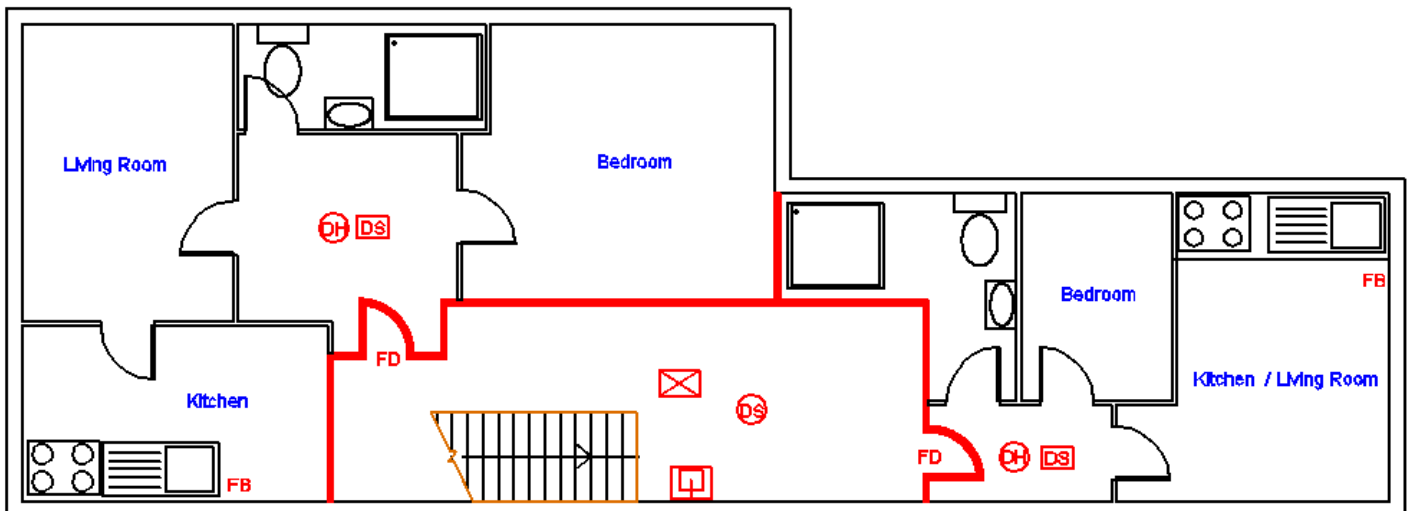
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor



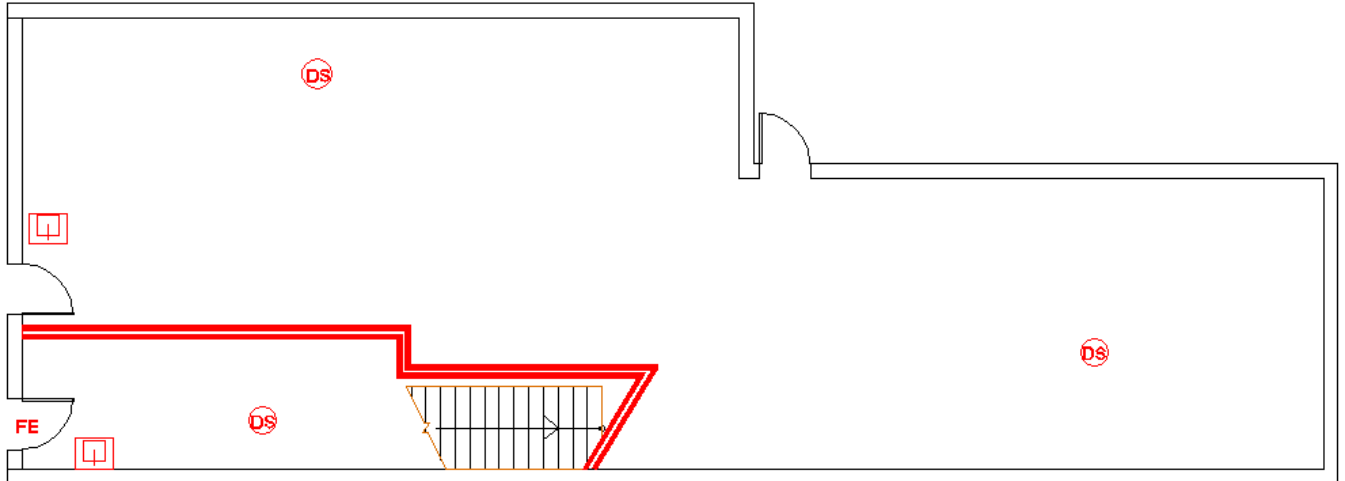
9. TWO OR MORE STOREYS

Flats above commercial units

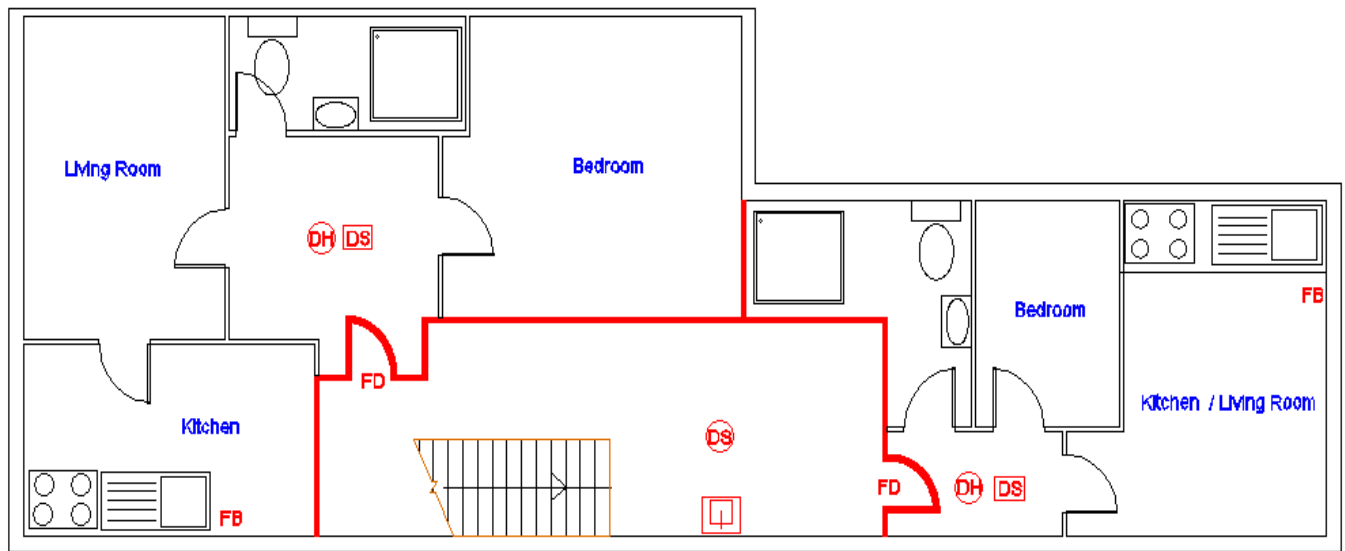
1. A Grade A fire alarm system should be provided to cover the common escape route and the entrance lobby/circulation area of each flat with linkage to commercial units where those units are in the same ownership. BS 5839. Refer to points 7 and 8 for level of detection within flats and common escape routes.
2. A protected escape route of a minimum standard of ½ hour fire resistance should be provided, including fire doorsets to BS 8214.
3. Separation between flats should achieve a minimum standard of ½ hour fire resistance.
4. Separation between flats and commercial parts of the building should be a minimum standard of 1 hour fire resistance.
5. There should be an easy and immediate exit from the building at all times (for example, a Yale type lock/thumb turn on the fire exit door).
6. An emergency lighting system may need to be provided to the protected escape route in accordance with BS 5226 where the route is long, complex or lacking effective borrowed light.
7. A fire blanket should be provided to the kitchen of each flat in accordance with BS EN 1869
Recommend – 1 x 13A fire extinguisher on each landing of the common parts .
8. In the case of Houses in Multiple Occupation of greater than 3 stories, purpose built blocks and more complex forms of sleeping accommodation, advice should be sought from the Fire and Rescue Service and it may be appropriate to conduct joint inspections.

EXAMPLE: FLATS ABOVE COMMERCIAL UNITS

Ground floor



First floor



10. 5 STOREYS AND OVER

Requirements

1. Due to the complex nature of the individual construction type, further guidance should be sort from the Local Authority and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

11. PURPOSE BUILT BUILDINGS

Self contained flats

1. Further guidance should be sort from the Local Authority and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

12. PROPERTIES WITH HABITABLE BASEMENTS/NON- HABILTABLE BASEMENTS

1. For both habitable and non-habitable basements there should be full 30 minutes fire separation between the basement and ground floor, with a self-closing 30 minute fire resisting door with intumescent strips and smoke seals fitted at the head of the stairs to the basement (for alternatives to this standard consult North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service or your local authority.)

13. AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

The provision of an Automatic Sprinkler System in accordance with British Standards 9251, sprinkler systems for residential and domestic occupancies may allow a relaxation of some of the above requirements, providing the premises are no more than 20 metres in height.

Sprinkler systems are well recognised as the most effective way of saving life should a fire occur within an HMO. When installed as part of the initial construction or on a retro-fit, 'trade-offs' against the traditional methods of fire safety that have been mentioned above can be made, i.e. the need to provide fire extinguishers or the need for high level of structural fire resistance. If you would like to discuss these alternative measures please contact your Local Authority or the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

14. THE PROVISION OF SMOKE CONTROL IN COMMON AREAS

If a refurbishment is to be undertaken to the building consideration should be given to the provision of smoke control within the common areas. This could be achieved by providing an automatic opening vent (AOV) at the head of the stairs or an openable window at each level. Where there are no openable windows to the common stair well the provision of an AOV would also be strongly recommended to be retro fitted to existing building. Further advice should be sort from Buildig Control to confirm if an application submission is required.

CONTACT DETAILS

Residential Services
Hambleton District Council
Civic centre
Stone Cross
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL6 2UU










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Document version: 2
Reviewed on 18/6/2018
Next review due on 18/6/2020

SYMBOLS SHOWN ON PLANS

SYMBOLS	
	Fire resisting door
	Non fire resisting door
CFD	Close fitting door
	30 minute fire separation
	60 minute fire separation
	Emergency Lighting
FB	Fire Blanket
	Break Glass Point
	Heat Detector
	Stand alone Smoke Detector
	Smoke Detector
FE	Final exit door
KLS	Keep locked shut