



**ROLE PROFILES**

- Fire Sprinkler Installer (fitter)**
- The installer plays an important part in the fire sprinkler sector and is responsible for installing complex fire sprinkler systems to protect life and property.
- Service Engineer**
- The service engineer is responsible for practically maintaining the fire sprinkler system. This would include servicing and fault finding activities on site.
- Contract or Project Manager**
- The installation of any system must be managed to ensure that its installation proceeds correctly. Planning and managing the project will mean labour, materials and equipment is available as needed and work is carried out to the design requirements accurately and efficiently.
- Commissioning Engineer**
- Commissioning engineers are employed to work at a client's site, where they are responsible for commissioning and overseeing the installation of systems and equipment.
- Design Engineer**
- A fire sprinkler design engineer is desk based and will design a system to ensure it meets the client requirements for the building.
- Project Engineer**
- The project engineer is often the primary technical point of contact for the client.
- Contracts Engineer**
- This person is responsible for conducting reviews and considering legal aspects of contract awards and administration. They can also be responsible for preparing and drafting commercial bids and tenders, estimating the costs of a project and ensuring that the costs are controlled.

It takes a period of good quality training and real work experience to become a competent qualified fire sprinkler installer. A career in the fire sprinkler industry calls for a dedication to lifelong learning, as the rate of technological advancement is rapid. An understanding of maths and science is useful, and those on the tools also need a head for heights, the ability to work in cramped conditions and the stamina to complete physically hard work day after day. The fire sprinkler industry holds diverse career paths, good wages and the opportunity for individuals to operate their own business. Installers can progress to design, consultancy, teaching and management, making the industry a career with a future.

satisfaction from doing a job to the best of your ability. You will also need to be trustworthy with good communication skills to deal with customers.

**Q – Do you recommend trainee installers aim for a particular qualification/level?**  
**A –** Yes. BAFSA has participated in the development of a competency based qualification. *The IQ Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation* is designed for new recruits to the industry and will provide evidence that you can work competently. Experienced plumbers can also opt to take the Agored Upskilling Award which is suitable for qualified plumbers.

**Q – How long will it take to qualify?**  
**A –** It can take approximately one year to achieve the Level 2 qualification, but it can be achieved more quickly than this, or it can take longer, it depends on the individual. Courses can be

undertaken on a day-release or block -release basis and you will also need to have real work experience within the fire sprinkler environment.

**Q – Can you recommend an intensive course that I can do within a couple of months?**  
**A –** BAFSA do not recommend this type of course as we believe learning has to be re-enforced over a period of time, especially the practical side of things. A couple of days in a workshop cannot provide the experience necessary to work on fire sprinkler systems. We advise the best way to train is through a recognised training provider (e.g. a college) on an accredited course.

**Q – Is it difficult to get work experience?**  
**A –** The majority of smaller companies cannot afford to take on a trainee. It would be helpful if you can arrange your own work

placement by contacting larger companies in your area or if you are already employed in the industry.

**Q – Where can I get information on the qualification?**  
**A –** The BAFSA website is a good place to start. [http://www.bafsa.org.uk/skills\\_qualifications.php](http://www.bafsa.org.uk/skills_qualifications.php).

If you have any questions after reading the information on the website you can contact [qualifications@bafsa.org.uk](mailto:qualifications@bafsa.org.uk) for more information.

**Q – Where is the qualification being delivered and are there course fees?**  
**A –** BAFSA works in partnership with three colleges and each college charges course fees.

- Neath Port Talbot College, South Wales,
- Llandrillo College, North Wales,
- The Manchester College

**Q – What are the job prospects for qualified installers?**  
**A –** Good, especially if you have the right training. There is always a shortage of well-qualified and experienced installers; good installers will always be in demand. It is certainly a job with a future and can lead to you eventually running your own business or branching out into consulting or even teaching.

**Q – What is the earning potential of the average installer?**  
**A –** On qualifying with a full Level 2 qualification and in full time employment you can expect to be earning around £17k a year, this could rise up to around £35k after five or more year's experience. Installers work hard for the money they earn. The hours can be long, call-outs can mean you work unsociable hours and it's not unusual to find yourself working more than 5 days a week.

**Frequently asked questions**

**Q – What qualities do you need to be a good installer?**  
**A –** You need to be a practical sort of person that gets