

External Wall Systems (EWS) Assessment Training FAQs

Background

RICS ran the government funded External Wall Systems Assessment training programme between 2021 and 2024. The programme was set up to address the shortage of professionals with the skills and knowledge to undertake EWS assessments also known as FRAEWs (Fire Risk Appraisals of External Walls) for buildings under 18 metres in height. The Government funded training ended on 31 March 2024.

A new course is now available without funding and offered on a pay as you go basis.

FAQs

Where can I find out more information about the training?

There is a dedicated [EWS Training](#) page on [rics.org](https://www.rics.org) which details the eligibility criteria and links to the enrolment portal. If you need further information, you can email training@rics.org for assistance.

Who can apply to do the training?

- CABE, CIAT, CIOB or IFE members (note: there are specific acceptance criteria)
- AssocRICS, MRICS or FRICS or who qualified via any pathway

How much will it cost me to do the training?

This training programme will cost £3,250.

How long will it take me to do the training?

This is an online, self-study programme. You will be assessed through a knowledge-based test and written assessment to verify you meet the standards required to carry out EWS assessments, provide reports and fill out EWS1 forms.

We recommend a study period of up to seventeen weeks to complete the training programme.

I am currently part way through the training, when do I need to complete it?

The initial online learning and Assessment 1 will need to be completed within 60 days of enrolment and extensions will only be available for exceptional circumstances. You will have 4 weeks to complete Assessment 1 before commencing Assessment 2.

I need to arrange a re-sit, when do I need to have this done by?

In the event that you need to re-sit either of the assessments, you should email ewstraining@rics.org for further advice.

What happens after I have successfully completed both assessments?

Once you have passed both Assessment 1 and Assessment 2 you will receive a certificate of completion from the Awarding Body of the Built Environment (ABBE).

Your name will also be added to a list of completers, providing assurance to the public, building owners, and stakeholders that the professionals listed have completed the EWS training programme. This transparency helps establish trust in the assessment process by showing who is qualified to conduct EWS inspections.

Will I require Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) to conduct EWS inspections?

Professionals carrying out EWS assessments must maintain an appropriate level of Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII). This insurance provides coverage against claims that may arise due to professional negligence, errors, or omissions during the assessment.

For surveyors and inspectors, having adequate PII is crucial for managing the potential liability risks associated with EWS assessments, especially given the sensitive nature of cladding and fire safety evaluations.

Is the EWS training programme valid for Scotland?

Yes, the RICS External Wall Systems (EWS) Assessment Training Programme is valid in Scotland, but it comes with some important caveats due to regional differences in building regulations.

Scotland has its own building regulations, which differ from those in England and Wales, and the Scottish Government is currently considering moving to a Single Building Assessment (SBA) system to manage building safety assessments, including external wall systems. This shift may impact the relevance of the EWS training programme in Scotland, especially if the SBA becomes the standard for compliance.

However, the RICS EWS training provides foundational skills and knowledge in assessing external wall systems, which can still be beneficial for surveyors working across the UK.

Scottish surveyors may need to supplement this training with additional guidance specific to Scottish regulations or work closely with local authorities to ensure assessments align with Scottish standards.