

NICEIC BAFE CONTRACTOR

"I started my own fire alarm business almost three years ago as I had some knowledge and history of working with fire alarms.

I had previously worked on fire alarm systems for a large contractor and was an engineer for another firm which gave me a good insight into installing fire alarm systems.

I decided I wanted to set up by myself and to focus on fire alarm installation and commissioning. I knew that I had to get BAFE certification, as an increasing number of companies make it a requirement if they sub-contract the work out.

After enquiring about BAFE, I was informed by NICEIC about what I needed to have in place and given an assessment date two months later.

The two-day assessment visit comprises of one day spent in the office and one day out on site.

The office visit looked at my quality management systems, documented procedures and insurances that I have in place. The site visit concentrated on two installations. It ensures the work being done is to the required standards.

I was delighted to pass the entire assessment first time round with flying colours.

Since gaining BAFE approval I have been busier than ever. My firm, MGC Fire, which is based in Teesside, employs 3 full-time staff and sub-contractors are employed to boost labour resource on an as required basis.

We are currently working on a big project at Clyde Valley Campus in north Lanarkshire and have recently finished a national multi-site fit out for Barclays Bank.

It is interesting work and definitely a bit of a specialist market. People might think it is easy or for the untrained, but BAFE SP203-1 sets us aside as having the competence to do it properly and to the right standard.

"It has been critical in us securing the work we have enjoyed over the last 18 months and as more work comes in I expect to take up more of an office role next year."

Mark Cairns
MGC Fire, Teesside



For further information visit www.niceic.com or call 0870 013 0458