Fire Fighters

Health assessments of fire-fighters are to be conducted by a medical practitioner and where practicable should be conducted by a fire service physician. A fire service physician is a registered medical practitioner employed by, or consultant to a fire service or related agency, who has the specific responsibility of advising on health and fitness matters for that agency.

Vision requirements are classified into two categories.

Category A
Category A conditions relate to circumstances that are not safely compatible with fire fighting. Reasons for inclusion of medical conditions in Category A include a heightened risk of a serious adverse event or significant likelihood that a pre-existing condition will be made worse when the affected person performs the essential tasks of fire-fighting. Applicants should be aware that the presence of a Category A condition will usually preclude a person from fire-fighting duties unless there is specialist medical advice based on sound medical evidence to the contrary.

- Best corrected distance vision less than 6/9 binocular (with two eyes)
- Best corrected distance vision less than 6/18 in either eye
- Best uncorrected distance vision less than 6/36 binocular (with both eyes)
- Best corrected near vision less than N5 (with both eyes)
- Visual fields less than 120 degrees in the horizontal field in each eye or less than 140 degrees if there is other visual field loss
- Any form of protan colour vision impairment
- Significant deuteran colour vision impairment (other than mild forms)
- Retinal detachment
- Diplopia
- Night blindness
- Severe corneal scarring, resulting in impaired vision, even though the person may pass the above criteria
- Monocular vision

Category B
Category B conditions indicates that a more detailed medical assessment is required. Usually, this must be conducted by an appropriately qualified specialist. The presence of a category B condition will commonly preclude fire fighting, unless specified conditions are met.

- Mild deuteran colour vision impairment (subject to passing the Fire Brigades' Colour Vision Test)
- Cataracts
- Any other eye disease that it likely to be progressive or recurring, such as diabetic retinopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, optic neuritis, iritis, glaucoma, refractive surgery
Classification

Following the medical examination, the individual is classified in the following way:

Class 1: Fit for the nominated role without restriction
Class 2: Fit for most of the tasks of the role, but some restriction is required
Class 3: More information is required. The assessing doctor will advise what level of duty may be performed during this interim stage.
Class 4: Unfit for the nominated role.

The complete standard can be found within the FireFighters ZIP file.