



## HEALTH AND SAFETY AT HOMESTAY GUARDIANS

The Health and Safety of students staying with homestay guardians is our top priority. It is our moral and legal duty to make sure that our homestays comply with matters of health and safety in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive. We accomplish this mainly through our inspections and re-inspections at least one a year when Comprehensive notes of each visit must be recorded within the homestay file. However, SE encourages their homestay guardians to routinely conduct health and safety checks in their household.

The list of the physical checks that form the basis of our safeguarding and our ensuring the requisite levels of safety in homestays:

- ✓ A minimum of one smoke alarm to be installed on every storey.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms-explanatory-booklet-for-landlords/the-smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarm-england-regulations-2015-qa-booklet-for-the-private-rented-sector-landlords-and-tenants>
- ✓ A carbon monoxide alarm to be installed in any room containing a gas, liquid or solid fuel burning appliance.
- ✓ An annual landlord gas safety check to be undertaken by a Gas Safe registered engineer and a copy of the certificate provided to the guardianship organisation.  
*If a student stays with you for short periods and you are paid for things such as the students' food, then you take on the duties of a landlord and must arrange for regular gas safety checks*  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/landlords/safetycheckswho.htm>
- ✓ The homestay must ensure that the electrical system is safe, e.g., sockets and light fittings are secure and not overloaded and any appliances used by the student are safe.
- ✓ The homestay must discuss the possible evacuation routes from the property with students. If doors or windows are locked students must know where to find the key in the event of a fire.
- ✓ It is not our requirement for homestays to have fire extinguishers or fire blankets unless the property is classed as a house in multiple occupation, however, if fire extinguishers and fire blankets are provided, they must be suitably serviced.
- ✓ Where open fires are used, a suitable fire guard must be in place when the fire is lit.
- ✓ Any matches / lighters must be appropriately stored.

- ✓ A basic first aid kit must be available to include, plasters, sterile eye-pad, triangular bandage, safety pins, non-medicated wound dressing, disposable gloves, leaflet giving guidance on first aid.
- ✓ Any prescription medication and drugs must be kept safely especially when hosting young students.
- ✓ Alcohol must be appropriately stored.
- ✓ The homestay must have an awareness of basic food hygiene when preparing meals for students.
- ✓ Homestays may wish to ask students to use UK plugs only and not to use overseas adaptors as these can be a source of fire. UK mobile phone and laptop adaptors are relatively easy and inexpensive to obtain in most cases.
- ✓ SE does not recommend candles to be used in students' bedrooms.

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Responsibility for Policy Review: Wioletta Laszyn