

Appendix 3: Functional risk (FR) category allocation

The table is a guide on functional risk category allocation. The list is not exhaustive, and organisations should assign additional areas not listed through a risk assessed approach.

We recommend that communal areas (e.g. public corridors and public toilets) directly associated with all the areas listed under each functional risk should be categorised as the same FR level.

Each FR category has its own audit target score. However, even if a functional area achieves its audit target score (or above), unless it scores 100% it is still likely to generate remedial actions. In these instances, the activity generated through rectification will serve to enhance the focus on the functional area and provide assurance. (Please refer to [Section 9.4 Table 4](#) in the national standards.)

Functional risk category	Suggested functional areas
FR1 (audit target score 98%, audit frequency weekly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive care units Operating theatres Chemotherapy/immunocompromised units A&E/resus/minor injuries/major trauma Delivery suites Augmented care Pharmacy aseptic
FR2 (audit target 95%, audit frequency monthly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute and community wards Dementia wards Treatment rooms where invasive procedures take place Endoscopy units Cardiology intervention suites Cardiac catheterisation units Sterile service units X-ray (interventional) Dialysis units
FR3 (audit target 90%, audit frequency bi-monthly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health and learning disabilities wards Urgent care centres Dental outpatient departments Sexual health (GUM) clinics Mortuary Emergency patient transport vehicles (ambulance/air ambulance)

Functional risk category	Suggested functional areas
FR4 (audit target 85%, audit frequency quarterly)	Treatment rooms where invasive procedures do not take place X-ray (non-invasive)/MRI/CT rooms 136 suite/seclusion/place of safety rooms Entrances, receptions, and public corridors Waiting areas Consulting/therapy rooms Departure/discharge lounges Rehabilitation units and day centres Pharmacies Pathology Laboratories General outpatient departments/clinics Physio outpatient departments Fracture clinics Occupational therapy Pre-op assessment units Linen and laundry departments* Occupational health
FR5 (audit target 80%, audit frequency 6-monthly)	Electrical and biomedical engineering/medical physics Chapel/prayer area Family/visiting rooms where not directly associated with a ward/department on this list Main receptions Non-emergency patient transport vehicles
FR6 (audit target 75%, audit frequency annually)	Administration/offices Medical records Education/postgrad and training centres Stores department, with exception of catering which is covered by the catering teams

* Please note that when determining the FR category for linen and laundry departments other appropriate guidance may need to be considered, such as Health Technical Memoranda (HTMs).