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JANKOVIĆ POPOVIĆ MITIĆ

A photograph of firefighters in full gear working at a fire scene. The background is dominated by a large, intense fire with bright orange and yellow flames. The firefighters are in the foreground, some holding hoses and equipment. The overall scene is dramatic and high-contrast.

# The Fire Protection Act Amendments and Supplements

Following the initiative widely known as “Tamara’s Law”, the Serbian Parliament has enacted the proposed Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Fire Protection Act, prescribing increased safety and more efficient inspection of premises intended for public use, primarily facilities in the hospitality industry and those gathering large groups of people.

The main reason for enacting this Law is to increase safety in terms of fire protection in premises intended for public use, by providing for more efficient inspection, primarily of businesses in the hospitality industry, as well as of premises in which educational, scientific, cultural, sports, student, healthcare and social protection activities take place.

The amendments to the Act define “premises intended for public use”, establish the legal grounds for specifying the minimum technical requirements in terms of fire protection, in accordance with the purpose of the premises, and establish grounds for prohibiting certain business activities in specific premises if proper requirements for safe evacuation of people from the premises have not been met, until such danger is removed.

One of the more important amendments is transferring the obligation to obtain consent verifying fire protection measures have been undertaken from the authority in charge of issuing utilization permits to the investor or owner of the premises.

The Ministry of the Interior is once more in charge of monitoring observance of the Fire Protection Act in the defense industry.

Business entities no longer have to enact Rehabilitation Plans, since the Law specifies that the field which would be regulated by the Rehabilitation Plan is already covered by other plans and regulatory acts.

This Law more clearly defines the obligations of owners and users of premises classified into various categories according to fire danger.

It more closely regulates the obligation of installing stable fire alarm systems, as well as of maintenance and inspection of the devices. It regulates the volume, program and carrying out of basic fire protection training for employees.

The Law specifies that the danger of occurrence and spreading of fire and lack of necessary conditions for safe evacuation of persons from the premises is one of the grounds for prohibition of certain business activities in such premises, until the danger is removed.

The Law was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 20 dated February 24th, 2015, and came into force on March 4th, 2015.

**Contact:**

**Goran Stojanovic,**  
**Senior Lawyer**  
tel: + 381/11/207-6850  
fax: +381/11/207-6899  
[goran.stojanovic@jpm.rs](mailto:goran.stojanovic@jpm.rs)