

Domestic smoke alarm systems for dwellings

Information sheet



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The construction of all new houses and any alterations to existing houses are now required to have a Type One smoke alarm installed complying with NZS:4514. This is to ensure that compliance with the Building Code F7-Warning Systems is achieved.

Domestic smoke alarms are classified as Type 1 system for the purposes of the Compliance Documents and the standard is free to download from the New Zealand Standards website, www.standards.govt.nz

Summary of requirements

- All Building Consent applications (new or alterations) are required to demonstrate full compliance with the NZ Standard NZS:4514.
- A Type 1 smoke alarm system must be interconnected throughout the dwelling by either hard wired or wireless connection and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- The source of power can either be 230 mains power or a long life (10 year minimum) non-removable, sealed battery.
- Where more than one alarm is required to meet the requirements of the standard, they shall be interconnected so that when one alarm activates, all smoke alarms within the house will sound.
- Smoke alarms shall have a "hush button" to temporarily silence the audible alarm in the event of a nuisance activation.

Smoke alarm location

- Smoke alarms shall be located on or near the ceiling;
- Be located in all bedrooms, living spaces, hallways and landings;
- Where kitchens are separated from living spaces and hallways by doors that can be closed, an alarm specified by the manufacturer as suitable for a kitchen, shall be located in the kitchen. This may be a heat alarm to avoid nuisance activations;
- In multi-level household units, there shall be at least one smoke alarm on each level.

Recommended maintenance procedures

- All smoke alarms require regular maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Monthly testing of the smoke alarm's test facility and six-monthly cleaning is recommended.

Glossary of terms

Description	Term
Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment	MBIE
Land Information Memorandum	LIM
Project Information Memorandum	PIM
Licensed Building Practitioner	LBP
Building Research Association of New Zealand	BRANZ
Environment Canterbury	ECan
New Zealand Building Code	NZBC
Restricted Building Work	RBW

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