

Domestic smoke alarms

Purpose:

As of November 2024, changes to the Acceptable Solution C/AS1 *Protection from fire for buildings with sleeping (residential) and outbuildings (risk group SH)* now require interconnected smoke alarms as the minimum fire safety system required in each household unit.

Introduction:

Building consent applications submitted on or after 2nd November 2024 that follow the Acceptable Solution C/AS1 as a compliance pathway, are now required to use the second edition of this compliance document which became effective on 2nd November 2023. C/AS1 requires that *each household unit shall be provided with a minimum of Type 1 domestic smoke alarm system in compliance with NZS 4514:2021*.

Where consent applications do not propose to install a fully compliant interconnected smoke alarm system complying with NZS 4514:2021 specialist advice should be sought, and such applications should be treated as alternative solutions. Compliance with the relevant sections Building Act as well as Code Clauses F7 and C clauses will need to be considered.

Building Consent Documentation:

As part of the building consent application documentation should include and building consent officers should confirm that the following is provided:

- Statement indicating compliance with NZS4514
 - This should be stated/located in a fire report (if provided)
 - This should be stated on plans or in an architectural specification
- Plans with smoke alarm locations identified
 - We would only expect these to be indicative locations based on NZS 4514
 - Specific locations given the room geometry and other features such as beams/slopping ceilings will need to be confirmed on site and checked by Council inspectors

Building Alterations:

Under s.112 of the Building Act council expects to see that interconnected smoke alarms complying with NZS 4514:2021 are to be provided where such systems do not already exist. Where consent applications for alterations to an existing building do not propose to install interconnected smoke alarms specialist advice should be sought.

References:

- MBIE. C1-C6 Protection from Fire. Acceptable Solution C/AS1. *Protection from fire for buildings with sleeping (residential) and outbuildings (risk group SH)*. (Second edition)
- NZS 4514:2021. Interconnected smoke alarms for houses.