

DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARM SYSTEMS FOR DWELLINGS (Information Sheet)

All new houses and all existing houses undergoing alterations are now required to have domestic smoke alarms installed.

The applicable Compliance Document (Acceptable Solution) to the Building Code is F7/AS1-Warning Systems.

Domestic Smoke Alarms are classified as Type 1 Fire Alarm for the purposes of the Compliance Documents.

Summary of Requirements:

- Domestic Smoke Alarms may be battery powered and are not required to be interconnected.
- They shall be provided with a test facility that may be located on the smoke alarm and also a hush facility having a minimum duration of 60 seconds.
- Domestic Smoke Alarms shall be listed or approved by a recognised authority as complying with at least one of the following: UL217, CAN/ULC S531, AS 3786, BS 5446 Part 1.

Domestic Smoke Alarm Location

- Domestic Smoke Alarms are to be installed on the escape route on each level of a household unit, and
- On levels containing the sleeping spaces, the smoke alarms shall be located either;
 - (a) In every sleeping space, or
 - (b) Within 3/0m of every sleeping space, in this case the domestic smoke alarm must be audible to sleeping occupants on the other side of the closed door. Recommended sound pressure level in the sleeping spaces is 60 dB(a).
- Sleep outs are also required to be protected with Domestic Smoke Alarms.
- Domestic Smoke Alarms shall be installed on or near the ceiling in accordance with AS 1670.6 and the manufacturer's instructions.

Recommended Maintenance Procedures are:

- In-situ annual cleaning with a vacuum cleaner (no disassembly of the smoke alarm required).
- Monthly testing by use of the smoke alarm's test facility.