

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



Aon New Zealand
Aon Sprinkler Certification
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Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note		
Note Number: 09-05	Issue: 1	Date: 14 December 2009
Subject	Potentially Faulty Sprinklers	

Following a recent incident where a head may have failed to release in a fire, it is timely to remind all contractors, and in particular, those involved in annual and biennial inspections that a number of sprinklers have been relatively recently the subject of various replacement and recall programs.

Makes and types of sprinklers involved include:

➤ **Central GB Replacement Program.**

The central GB Voluntary Replacement Program was the subject of a replacement program earlier this decade. As well as Central heads, this program included some Gem heads, such as their on/off head.

We are aware that Fletcher Fire Protection imported some Central residential heads that were part of this program in the late 1980's early 1990's. It is important that particular attention is given checking sprinklers in installations that this company may have installed.

We also believe that other heads that were the subject of this replacement program may have been imported by other suppliers. This includes Central's LD (Large Drop) sprinklers and Gem's F927 On/Off Sprinkler.

➤ **Central Omega Sprinklers**

These heads were the subject of a replacement program in the late 1990's/early 2000's. Limited numbers of these heads were used in New Zealand the late 1980's, when quick response heads were specified.

➤ **Mather and Platt R Type Sprinklers.**

These sprinklers were recalled in the 1990's. Quantities of these sprinklers were installed throughout New Zealand.

➤ **Globe Model J Dry Sprinklers**

Sprinklers manufactured between 1990 and 1999 are suspect. We are not aware of any companies that may have imported these sprinklers.

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➤ **Star ME Dry Sprinklers.**

These heads have been the subject of various recall programs. We are unaware of any such heads imported into New Zealand.

Reference Sources

Inspection contractors should ensure that their staff can recognise these types and makes of sprinklers, and report on their presence in any inspection reports that they issue. Sources of information include various websites, including the US Consumer Product Safety Commission website:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/prod.aspx>

Other sources of information can be found on various supplier websites, including:

<http://www.sprinklerreplacement.com/>

http://globesprinkler.com/index.php/globe/news/voluntary_product_recall_notice/

Building Warrant of Fitness Issues

As installations using these sprinklers cannot be guaranteed to meet the performance standards that they were originally installed too, contractors must be aware that they cannot sign a Form 12A where these sprinklers are present.

Counterfeit Sprinklers

All contractors are reminded that there are reports of various types of counterfeit sprinklers that have been discovered in various parts of the world. This may include reports of such heads found in Australia.

While we understand that most sprinklers sold in New Zealand are via the manufacturer's authorised agents, we remind that if any contractors are parallel importing sprinklers through buying houses and the like, that they should ensure that they are supplied with genuine product.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Mak'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chris Mak
Sprinkler Certification Manager