

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



Aon New Zealand

Aon Sprinkler Certification
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Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note		
Note Number: 11-07	Issue: 1	Date: 22 February 2011
Subject	Certification of Extensions to Existing Systems	
Notice: Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Notes provide guidance notes which may be used in certification of sprinkler installations by Aon New Zealand. If sprinkler installations are being certified by any other Sprinkler System Certifier, these Technical Notes may not apply.		

Aon Sprinkler Certification is one of two Sprinkler System Certifiers operating in New Zealand, responsible for certifying sprinkler systems in compliance with NZS4541:2003, NZS4541:2007, NZS4515:2003 and NZS4515:2009.

The primary role of a Sprinkler System Certifier is best defined in NZS4541:2007 clause 112 which is to certify the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems. Other roles include certifying approved contractors and listing equipment when required to be listed by the Standard.

In certifying sprinkler systems, a Sprinkler System Certifier gathers information from a number of sources, including a design parameter submission from the contractor, as-built drawings and calculations also from the contractor and an inspection report from an accredited third party inspection company.

Currently, there are five companies operating as accredited third party inspection companies:

- Aon Central Inspection Services
- Hudson Fire Inspections Limited
- Kensway Fire Limited
- Fire Protection Inspection Services Limited
- Fire System Inspections Limited

Historically, some Building Consent Authorities have accepted documentation from these organisations as evidence of compliance with Standards. Many Building Consent Authorities are now correctly not relying on these statements, but insisting on a statement of compliance from a Sprinkler System Certifier. This is creating some concerns relating to small extensions and alterations to existing systems, due to the additional costs involved in obtaining such a statement.

Aon Sprinkler Certification believes that the intent of the Standard is reflected in clause 112.1(z), which states

In the case of an extension to an existing system, where the floor area of the extension exceeds that protected by 18 sprinkler heads, all the above information with:

- (i) Details of the water supplies for the system before and after extension*
- (ii) A plan showing the total protected areas before and after extension*

This clause has been written to pragmatically provide a guideline as to when the additional costs of having a Sprinkler System Certifier involved is balanced against the risk that the system is not compliant.

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It is important however to again emphasise the role of Sprinkler System Certifiers in the certifying of approved contractors who undertake this work. The object of this role is to review and ensure an agreed set of competencies are met by the contractors. This underpins the objective of clause 112.1(z) whereby the competencies of these certified companies have been demonstrated, thereby supporting the allowance within the Standard for these companies to undertake extension or alteration work of less than 18 sprinkler heads without application to a Sprinkler System Certifier.

It is suggested that Building Consent Authorities use this as a guideline as to when they should insist on a compliance statement from a Sprinkler System Certifier, as against accepting a statement from an accredited third party inspection company.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mak".

Chris Mak
Sprinkler Certification Manager

Withdrawn - NZS4541_2013 significantly alters these requirements