

Fire Safety FS-01 | Monitoring of Sprinkler Systems in Class 9a Health-care Buildings

Audience

The audience/s for this Practice Note include/s:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architects/ Designers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owner Builders |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Builders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plumbers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Surveyors/ Inspectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Management Agents |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trades and Maintenance (inc. Electricians) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Owners / Residential Tenants | |

Purpose

The purpose of this Practice Note is to describe the requirements referenced in Specification 20, clause VIC S20C8 of the Victorian Appendix to Volume One of the NCC 2022, which provides a concession not to monitor smoke detection and alarm systems in Class 9a health-care buildings, where the building has a sprinkler system connected to a fire station or other approved monitoring service in accordance with this practice note.

The content below provides guidance on:

- Connection of sprinkler system to a fire station or other approved monitoring service.

Abbreviations & Definitions

The abbreviations and definitions set out below are for guidance only. They are not intended to vary those set out in the Building Act 1993 or the Building Regulations 2018 or the National Construction Code

- **ActivFire listed** – A product approved and listed in the ActivFire Scheme Register of Fire Protection Equipment maintained by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Division of Materials Science and Engineering (CSIRO-MSE).
- **AS** – Australian Standard
- **ASE** – Alarm Signalling Equipment
- **FRV** – Fire Rescue Victoria
- **NCC** – National Construction Code
- **RBS** – Relevant Building Surveyor
- **Regulations** – Building Regulations 2018
- **Sprinkler alarm switch** – A device capable of sending an electrical signal to activate an alarm when a sprinkler head is activated (e.g. a flow switch).



Connection of Sprinkler System to a Fire Station or other Approved Monitoring Service

System design

The sprinkler installation must comply with the requirements of the NCC for a Class 9a health-care building except as follows:

Connection to fire station or monitoring service

Connection of the sprinkler system to a fire station or other approved monitoring service must be via a sprinkler alarm switch connected to ASE complying with AS 1670.3 and AS 4428.6. The alarm signalling equipment must be installed:

- Within or adjacent to the fire brigade panel enclosure.
- In a secure accessible position.
- In a weatherproof housing, if located externally.

Sprinkler alarm switches must be ActivFire listed.

Indication at the fire brigade panel

Any signal from the alarm signalling equipment must also be audible and visible at the fire brigade panel to indicate that the alarm signalling equipment is in operation.

Certificate of Acceptance

A Certificate of Acceptance and report must be completed by the RBS responsible for issuing the building permit. The Certificate and report must be received by the Chief Officer of FRV before the final connection of the alarm is made to a fire station or other approved monitoring service.

The Certificate of Acceptance must be in accordance with the form provided in – Appendix 1 and must include the details of the person who has commissioned the sprinkler system.

Related Documentation

- Building Act 1993
- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Code 2022
- AS 1670.3 – 2018 Fire detection, warning, control, and intercom systems – System design, installation, and commissioning – Part 2: Fire alarm monitoring.
- AS 4428.6:2018 Fire detection, warning, control, and intercom systems - Control and indicating equipment - Alarm signalling equipment.

List of Amendments

- Update of NCC references to align with the new 2022 referencing system
- Update of Australian Standard references to current versions
- Update format and content review

Document history

Sector	Building
Category	Fire Safety
Topic	Monitoring of Sprinkler Systems in Class 9a Health-care Buildings
Document number	01



Version	1.0
Superseded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practice Note PN-07 Residential Fire Safety Systems issued June 2018.
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Contact Us

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Appendix 1 - Certificate of Acceptance form

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR FIRE ALARM CONNECTION¹

TO: The Chief Officer, Fire Rescue Victoria

Address of Building:

..... Postcode:

Owner:

Building Classification: Building Use:

.....

FRV Report No²:

The sprinkler system was commissioned by:

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Email Address

I have assessed the sprinkler system documentation, and I am satisfied that the sprinkler system has been installed, inspected, and tested in accordance with the applicable parts of the relevant Standard(s) and will perform the function for which it has been installed.

Signed: Date:

Name:

Building Practitioner's Registration Number:

Company:

Address:

.....

Telephone: Email Address

Notes:

¹To be completed by the relevant building surveyor responsible for issuing the building permit.

² Include the report number if the Chief Officer has issued a report for the building permit (under regulation 129 of the Building Regulations 2018).