



Heads up!

Are you building or renovating?
You need to know that Aotearoa
New Zealand's residential smoke
alarm rules are changing.

From 1 November 2024, all building consent applications will need to include a plan for inter-connected smoke alarms. This new rule applies to all new houses, additions, and alterations.

This follows a law change affecting the **New Zealand Building Code F7/AS1** and **C/AS1** which brings Aotearoa New Zealand up to the latest industry standards for the installation, maintenance and commissioning of smoke alarms. The requirements are set out in **NZS 4514:2021**.

Main points

Inter-connected smoke alarms

What are they?

These alarms work together – if one smoke alarm detects a fire, all the smoke alarms in the home will sound the alarm.

Where must they be?

Smoke detectors will need to be installed in all bedrooms, living spaces, hallways and landings. Multi-level dwellings will need at least one smoke alarm on each level.

What types can be used?

Recommendations are given on the types of detectors that can be used in different areas of a home. Wired-in smoke alarms or wireless smoke alarms with long-life batteries (10 years) can be installed. For more detail, including mounting and spacing requirements, see [NZS 4514:2021](#).

What happens next?

This message is just a heads up that change is coming. You can start using the new standard now, or you can wait. We'll accept consent applications under the current standard and under the new standard until the law change takes effect in November.

We'll be in touch again nearer the time, to help you prepare for the change.

In the meantime, you can download a free PDF from:

standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-45142021/