

# Fire formal interpretations

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**FI-114**

NZS 4512:2010 *Fire detection and alarm systems in buildings* – Clause 109 and Appendix L

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## Question:

Clause 109 defines requirements for workmanship, competency, and qualifications. It states that 'equivalent qualifications' to the NZQA qualifications listed in the NOTE 'shall be permitted', and that Appendix L provides guidance for assessment of this, however Appendix L does not refer to inspection.

Clause 109 NOTE (3) states that the applicable qualification for inspection is the New Zealand Qualifications Authority National Certificate in Fire Protection Systems Technology (Inspection and Testing) (Level 4).

- (1) While Appendix L does not include reference to inspection activities, can Appendix L be applied to assessment of equivalent qualifications for inspection (clause 109, Note 3)?
- (2) If so, is it acceptable for technical experts to determine appropriate 'equivalent' qualifications as they are encountered, using Appendix L? Or are you able to provide guidance regarding the types of qualifications that might be appropriate?

## Interpretation issued by the Alarms and detection group:

- (1) Appendix L gives guidelines for establishing the acceptability of a particular installer signatory. While not directly applicable to the inspection staff of an Accredited Inspection Body (AIB), the underlying principles of Appendix L could be used to assess an AIB inspector who has qualification(s) other than NZQA National Certificate in Fire Protection Systems Technology (Inspection & Testing) (Level 4).
- (2) Yes, it is appropriate to use Appendix L to determine 'equivalent' qualifications for AIB inspection staff per (1) above. Alternatively an internationally recognised accreditation body could establish other processes to achieve this objective. For the purposes of NZS 4512, any reasonable approach that satisfies the requirements of an overarching AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17020 (Type A) accreditation will satisfy the requirements of NZS 4512.

NOTE – The routine 'inspections' of section 6 (performed by a contractor) are not the same as the 'inspection' of Appendix J (performed by an Accredited Inspection Body in accordance with clause 506).