

Fire formal interpretations

10 April 2013

FI-107

NZS 4512:2010 *Fire detection and alarm systems in buildings* – Clause 401.2.3(c) and 401.3

Question:

1. Is the intention of 401.2.3(c) to allow a fire alarm zone to be extended on a Type 3, Type 3b, Type 6, or Type 7 system to 2000 m² if there is a NZS 4541 sprinkler system present and zone indication by the smoke detectors?
2. Is the intention of the note in 401.3 to exclude Type 5 and Type 7e systems from extending fire alarm zones to 2000 m² when sprinkler coverage is used instead of installing heat detectors throughout?

Interpretation issued by the Alarms and detection group:

1. No. The zone area extension of 401.2.3(c) applies only to the sprinklers, which would need to be zoned (for example, by flow switches) into areas of 2000 m² or less.
2. No. The intention of the note in 401.3 is that sprinkler systems installed in Type 5 and Type 7e systems do not need to be zoned at all (except where required by NZS 4515 or NZS 4541). The smoke detectors, however, must be zoned as normal, and a zone area extension would be permitted if the usual criteria were met.