

Fire formal interpretations

22 July 2019

FI-138

NZS 4512:2010 *Fire Detection and Alarm Systems in Buildings* – Clauses 405.2.1 (a) and 405.2.2
Detection in non-accessible ceiling spaces

Question:

A ceiling space is more than 800mm high at the peak, is non-accessible, is not fire rated, and contains no plant or equipment. The fire design specifies a Type 4 fire alarm system.

Clause 405.2.1 (a) states that detectors shall be installed in accessible spaces.

As this ceiling space is non-accessible, does it require detectors to be installed?

Interpretation issued by the Alarms and detection group:

Detectors are required in all spaces unless one of the exceptions of 405.2.2 applies.

Accessibility is of no account in determining whether detectors are required or not. The areas listed in 405.2.1 (a) are merely examples.

NOTE: Clause 402.15 requires service access to be provided for all detectors. This may require suitable provision to be made in the building structure or fit-out (for example, access hatches, platforms.)