



26 June 2006

Question:

Std: NZS 4512

Fl 049

Interpretation:

Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group

Is it the intent of **401.5** that multiple retail tenancies with individual fire cells are required to be defined as separate zones in the following circumstances?

1. Manual (manual Call Points, Type 2)

- a. Where all tenancies can only be accessed from the exterior of the building
- b. Where the tenancies share a common corridor

1.

- a. yes, in the absence of NZFS advice to the contrary.
- b. no

2. Automatic (Heat/Smoke Detection Type 3 & 4)

- a. Where all tenancies can only be accessed from the exterior of the building
- b. Where the tenancies share a common corridor

2.

- a. yes, in the absence of NZFS advice to the contrary.
- b. no

NOTE:

Retail occupancies are not differentiated in the standard, which makes no specific provision for them. Nor does 401.5 differentiate between Manual and Automatic systems. The question therefore comes down to what is "normally accessible".

The inconsistency whereby ground floor firecells opening to the exterior must be zoned more tightly than those on an upper level of the same building is noted. This will need to be addressed in a future revision of the standard.

104 defines a "zone" as being for fire fighter search and evacuation purposes. NZ Fire Service approval of the zone index (per 402.8.2) could be taken as evidence they consider the zones and access acceptable, so the zoning could be accepted by a system certifier as satisfying the intent of the standard. Such documentation should be sent to the Territorial Authority for possible amendment to the building consent and public record.

Alternatively, an Alternative Solution could be sought directly from the Territorial Authority in an individual case for a relaxation of 401.5 ground floor zoning requirements to the equivalent of what would be applicable to upper floors in the same situation. This formal interpretation could be used to support such application.