



15 August 2006

FI 061

**Question:**

**Interpretation:**

**Std:** NZS 4512

**Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group**

a) Are intrinsically-safe manual call points and detectors in hazardous areas exempt from the general requirements (216.5, 405.4, E4) for a visual indication of operation?

a) Yes, it is acceptable for detector and/or manual call point indicators to be omitted in hazardous areas provided each such hazardous area (including any non-hazardous area immediately above it) is designated a separate fire alarm search zone (per definition in 104).

b) Are circuits to intrinsically-safe manual call points and detectors in hazardous areas exempt from the general prohibition (204.9, 208.1(b), 402.2(n)) against open or short circuits initiating a fire alarm?

b) Yes, open or short circuit initiating of a fire alarm is permitted provided the circuit serves only the hazardous area (and any non-hazardous area immediately above it).

There are overriding legal requirements (see 108) applicable to the safeguarding of hazardous areas, which include requirements for safety barrier devices, simple or certified apparatus, and the physical protection of cabling. Given the relatively few instances of hazardous areas requiring detection, it would be impractical and/or prohibitively expensive to require hazardous area certification for indicating manual call points and detectors, or to insist on open and short circuit defect signalling.