



16 February 2007

Question:

Std: NZS 4512

*FI 067 (AMENDED)*

Interpretation:

Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group

For Type 4, 5 & 7 systems (as defined by the NZ Building Code Approved Documents and listed in Appendix B):

(a) Is the substitution of heat detectors (Type 4 & 5 systems) instead of smoke detectors permitted in wardrobes?

(a) Yes, if there is a risk of spurious smoke detector alarms (e.g. from dust or lint) per 405.1.3(h).

(b) Is the substitution of sprinklers (Type 7 systems) instead of smoke detectors permitted in wardrobes?

(b) Yes, for the same reason as (a) above, per 405.2.2(h).

In the (uncommon) situation of the escape path from a sleeping space passing through a wardrobe, substitution would not be permitted.

Commentary:

The NZ Building Code Approved Documents require smoke detectors in sleeping spaces and corridors used for escape from sleeping spaces, and substitution is not permitted. NZS 4512:2003 mirrors this requirement.

A wardrobe adjacent to or opening into a sleeping space is not considered to be a sleeping space.

NOTES:

Under-stair wardrobes are classed as wardrobes, not understair cupboards.

The NZ Building Code Approved Documents do not require detectors in cupboards or wardrobes within household units of purpose group SR. NZS 4512 does not have this exemption, except as permitted by Figure 3.