



09 June 2008

FI 086

Question:

Interpretation:

Std: NZS 4512

Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group

Clauses 406.2 and F4.1

Question:

Non-synchronised alerting devices with integral tone/voice modules or loudspeaker groups connected to different amplifier outputs can drift out of phase after a few tone/message cycles. This can lead to different alerting devices/loudspeakers in a building producing tone and voice messages simultaneously. Is this acceptable?

Clauses 406.2 (installation) and F4.1 (design) require the verbal message to be “clear and readily understandable/intelligible”. This is matter for the judgment of an on-site inspector.

By way of guidance, such an inspector could ask themselves: “Can the message be readily understood (even if there is competing interference from other areas)?” If this is the case most of the time in most of the premises, and slight movement (a step or two or a rotation of the head) resolves all marginal clarity situations then it can be deemed acceptable. If there are significant areas of the building with long-term overlap where the voice message is not readily understandable, this is not acceptable.