



09 June 2008

*FI 087*

*Question:*

*Std: NZS 4512*

Interpretation:

Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group

It is technically possible, via telephone dialler/modem or other communications media, to access a fire alarm system's service and diagnostic facilities remotely (e.g. from the fire alarm service agent's office). As well as diagnosing faults, such remote access could typically enable a technician to change functions of the system including the isolation of devices, silencing alarms, or re-setting of the system after alarm activation.

a) Would a fire alarm system with this type of remote connection still comply?

b) To what degree, if any, is such remote service access permitted?

A detailed and definitive answer to this question is beyond the scope of a formal interpretation.

NZS 4512 is silent on the subject of remote service and diagnostics, and makes no stipulations as to how a manufacturer or service company might meet the various requirements for security (e.g. 215.2.2) or routine testing and maintenance (as outlined in parts 6 and 7).

It seems reasonable to suppose that provided all the underlying requirements of the Standard are fulfilled (per the principle of 101.4), such remote service access arrangements could be used.