



31 July 2012

FI-103

Question:

NZS 4512:2010 *Fire detection and alarm systems in buildings* – clauses 601.2 and 603.1

Clause 601.2 states:

'Tests, inspections, other routine maintenance and reporting specified in this Part shall be carried out at the intervals specified.'

Clause 603.1 states:

'Annual checks and tests...'

Does this mean that the following annual checks and tests (survey) must be done within 12 months of the previous one – that is, if a survey is done in March 2011, the next survey must be done by the end of March 2012, or would April 2012 be acceptable?

Interpretation:

Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group

NZS 4512 does not specify any particular tolerances for testing intervals, so a commonsense approach is required.

The underlying requirement is for 12 sets of “monthly” checks and tests and one set of “annual” checks and tests to be conducted in the interval between (fixed) Compliance Schedule anniversary dates.

NOTE –

Specific tolerances might be considered in a future amendment or revision. When published, NZS 4541:2013 (currently at public comment stage) is likely to specify tolerances for testing intervals, which may be of guidance in the interim.