

Things you need  
to know about

# Domestic Smoke Alarm Systems for Dwellings

## Domestic Smoke Alarm Systems for Dwellings

*All new houses, sleep-outs and all existing houses undergoing alterations are now required to have domestic smoke alarms installed.*



### Where should you put smoke alarms in your house?

- Domestic smoke alarms are to be installed on the escape route on each level of a household unit, and
- On levels containing the sleeping spaces, the smoke alarms shall be located either:
  - (a) In every sleeping space, or
  - (b) Within 3.0 m of every sleeping space, in this case the domestic smoke alarm must be audible to sleeping occupants on the other side of the closed door. Recommended sound pressure level in the sleeping spaces is 60 dBA.
- Domestic smoke alarms shall be installed on or near the ceiling in accordance with AS 1670.6 and the manufacturer's instructions.

### Summary of Requirements:

- Domestic smoke alarms may be battery powered and are not required to be interconnected.

- They shall be provided with a test facility that may be located on the smoke alarm and also a hush facility having a minimum duration of 60 seconds.
- Domestic smoke alarms shall be listed or approved by a recognised authority as complying with at least one of the following: UL217, CAN/ULC S531, AS 3786, BS 5446 Part 1.

### Recommended Maintenance Procedures are:

- In-situ annual cleaning with a vacuum cleaner (no disassembly of the smoke alarm required). Batteries should be replaced as per manufacturer's information but at least annually.
- Monthly testing by use of the smoke alarm's test facility.

### Formal Stuff

Domestic smoke alarms are classified as Type 1 Fire Alarm for the purposes of the Compliance Documents.

The applicable Compliance Document (Acceptable Solution) to the Building Code is F7/AS1-Warning Systems.

For additional information please contact the Waimakariri District Council on 03 311 8900