



Heads up!

Are you building or renovating?
You need to know that Aotearoa
New Zealand's domestic smoke
alarm rules are changing.

From 2 November 2024, all building consent applications for housing will need to specify inter-connected smoke alarms. This new rule applies to both new houses and alterations to existing.

This follows a change to the **New Zealand Building Code acceptable solutions C/AS1** and **F7/AS1** to improve fire safety in Aotearoa New Zealand's homes. The new edition of **C/AS1** cites **NZS 4514:2021**, which sets out the requirements for interconnected smoke alarms.

Main points

Inter-connected smoke alarms for houses

What are they?

These smoke alarms work together – if one smoke alarm detects a fire, all the smoke alarms in the home will sound the alarm.

Where must they be?

Smoke alarms will need to be installed in all bedrooms, living spaces, hallways and landings. Multi-level dwellings will need at least one smoke alarm on each level.

What types can be used?

The standard provides the option to use wired-in or wireless smoke alarm systems. A wireless system uses long-life batteries (minimum 10 years). The standard also has recommendations on which types of detection methods the alarms should have in different areas of a home. For more detail, including mounting and spacing requirements, see [NZS 4514:2021](#).

What happens next?

This message is just a heads up that change is coming. While you can start using the new acceptable solution now, you can continue to use the previous acceptable solution for building consent applications until 1 November 2024.

We'll be in touch again nearer the time, to help you prepare for the change.

In the meantime, you can download a free PDF from:

standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-45142021/