

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



Aon New Zealand

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Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note		
Note Number: TN20-43	Issue: 1	Date: 9 April 2020
Subject	Managed Evacuation Systems & NZS 4541:2020	
Notice: Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Notes provide guidance notes which may be used in certification of sprinkler installations by Aon New Zealand. If sprinkler installations are being certified by any other Sprinkler System Certifier, these Technical Notes may not apply.		

Most commercial and public buildings need to have an evacuation procedure in place. Certain buildings, used for specific purposes, require the building owner to provide and maintain an evacuation scheme. If a building has an evacuation scheme that allows evacuation to a safe place within a building¹, the Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures, and Evacuation Schemes) Regulations 2018 requires that the building be protected by a sprinkler system complying with specified standards, which includes NZS 4541:2013².

A significant difference between NZS 4541:2013 and NZS 4541:2020 is that the latter standard no longer requires that hand operated fire-fighting equipment be installed in a sprinkler protected building. NZS 4541:2020 is not currently specified within the Regulations.

If a sprinkler system complying with NZS 4541:2020 is to be installed in a building with a managed evacuation scheme, Clause 117 of the 2013 edition of the standard can normally be applied to designate the system as complying with NZS 4541:2013 but only if hand held fire-fighting equipment is also installed in the building in accordance with NZS 4503.

We further note that if NZS 4541:2020 is used to claim compliance with NZS 4541:2013, under clause 117, an assessment will be required to ensure if the enhanced water supply requirements of the 2013 edition of the Standard need to be applied.

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¹ Such evacuation schemes are often known as managed evacuation or staged evacuation schemes.

² The Regulations do not allow the deletion of the clauses allowed by the NZ Building Code but require compliance with the Standard as published.