

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



Aon New Zealand

Aon Sprinkler Certification
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Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note		
Note Number: TN19-39	Issue: 1	Date: 17 July 2019
Subject	Sprinklers in Wardrobes	
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.		

Fire Sprinkler Contractors in the Auckland region are being asked by Auckland City's building inspectors to install guards to sprinkler heads within wardrobes.

Council are concerned that storage will result in sprinkler release.

NZS4541:2013 states that heads *may* be protected by listed guards. Aon is unaware of any guards that are listed with two-piece plates. Listed guards are not available for residential sprinklers.

Aon suggests a number of options can be used to address Council's requests:

1. If the wardrobes are designed with a lintel, one option will be to install the sprinkler immediately adjacent to the lintel so that the probability of mechanical damage is significantly reduced.
2. Listed sprinkler guards could be installed, with sprinklers fitted to single piece escutcheons.

We are aware that a number of existing wardrobes have been retrofitted with "chip basket" guards. While we do not recommend this, if a decision is made to retain these, Aon suggests that

- a. The outer part of any 2 piece escutcheon plates is adequately restrained to ensure that it cannot slip off the sprinkler, become trapped and disturb water discharge, (see photo below)
- b. Concealed type heads are not used.

If either the two requirements listed above have not been complied with, remedial work will be required.

Note:

- 1) NZS4541 does not allow the Sprinkler System Certifier to insist on guards being installed. Notwithstanding this, Aon would recommend that provisions are taken to avoid the potential of accidental activation of sprinklers within wardrobes and cupboards.
- 2) Aon's acceptance of heat detector cages in this situation cannot be taken as universal acceptance of such cages in other situations. Our acceptance is solely to a small volume spaces such as a typical cupboard or wardrobe, where sprinklers have already been installed.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mak".

Chris Mak
MANAGER – AON FIRE PROTECTION