

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



Aon New Zealand

Aon Sprinkler Certification
Aon Building, 1st Floor,
34 Triton Drive,
Albany, North Shore City
Telephone: 0800-AONFIRE

Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note

Note Number: TN-18-37	Issue: 1	Date: 23 February 2018
Subject	Flow testing considerations	
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.		

Sprinkler inspections are required in New Zealand as part of the certification of new installations and, for existing sprinkler systems, as part of the on-going compliance requirements of the Building Warrant of Fitness regime. Flow testing is undertaken as part of this sign off process and is repeated every two years.

For systems with high flow rates, the flow test can look quite impressive but these tests can also potentially be very destructive. The flows generated are similar to those used by gold miners to wash away rocks and soil and can cause significant damage if not managed properly.



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In particular, the surface that the water will discharge on must be considered in the design of a sprinkler system and when conducting the flow tests. A common failure point is the joints between asphalt and concrete as the water may be forced under the lip of the seal. For very high flow test volumes, as is now common in warehouses, asphalted areas can be torn up and destroyed.

Soft landscaping features located in front of the water flow can also quickly be destroyed by a flow test. Additionally, the water run-off must be considered to avoid washing away garden mulch, flooding property and buildings and/or ponding or damaging the road and footpath.



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Architects, landscape designers and fire contractors need to consider the design of the ground coverings in the area of the flow test point and where the test point is facing.

When preparing their construction programmes, head contractors, need to coordinate the timing of the flow test at the completion of the building with the civil works status on the site. This avoids the invidious situation of having to decide between delaying a flow test, and potentially the opening day of the building, versus tearing up the prepared landscaping or soaking prepared compacted base layers.



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Finally, the usual health and safety considerations need to be considered when conducting testing both in respect of the powerful test water flow itself and in respect of the water run-off, which can also present hazards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Ridder'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen Ridder
Fire Protection Consultant
027-836-5261