

# AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION



**Aon New Zealand**  
Aon Sprinkler Certification  
Aon Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
4 Fred Thomas Drive,  
Takapuna, North Shore City  
Telephone: 09 – 486 9761  
Fax: 09 – 486 0112

<b>Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note</b>		
<b>Note Number: 12-09</b>	<b>Issue: 1</b>	<b>Date: 18 July 2012</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Fire Service Inlet Connections</b>	
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.		

At a meeting held at the FPA's Offices today, the issue of use of aluminium alloy fire service inlets was discussed with The New Zealand Fire Service's Engineering Manager.

The National Operations Manager for the Fire Service is not willing to accept such couplings, as they do not comply with NZS/PAS4505:2007.. NZS4505 requires that the Fire Service Inlet couplings are manufactured of gunmetal.

We have received reports that at least two suppliers are having male aluminium couplings being used in Fire Service Inlet assemblies manufactured overseas. In addition to the non-conformance on material selection, we have received anecdotal reports that the couplings may be dimensionally inaccurate, in that hoses may be extremely hard to connect to some couplings, and that in other cases, that the hose connections seem very loose.

We are also aware of one site where a welded aluminium coupling assembly catastrophically failed while being pressurised. This raised questions of material, welding and post-welding heat treatment standards.

Third party accredited inspection companies will not be able to provide "clean" inspection letters for installations using aluminium male FSI couplings.

It is noted that currently, we are aware of reports that the Fire Service Inlets have been stolen from approximately 120 sites throughout the North Island. It is reported that two suspects are remanded in custody and that Police are seeking a third suspect. On that basis, it is believed that the spate of thefts of couplings will now be abated.

In the interim there will be a shortage of couplings as the stolen ones are replaced. Both local manufactures are reported to be gearing up production to allow orders to be fulfilled.

Given the inherent reliability of sprinkler systems, the Fire Service's Engineering Manager has indicated that he will be drafting a letter supporting acceptance of sprinkler systems for a Certificate of Public Use if a Fire Service Inlet is not fitted.

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We would expect that non-compliant Fire Service Inlets are reported on as a significant defect during subsequent annual/biennial surveys.

While not a concern with respect to certification and on-going compliance of sprinkler systems, it is noted that there are also anecdotal reports of female instantaneous hose couplings (such as being used on riser outlet assemblies) also not complying with NZS/PAS4505:2007 which would be of concern to various stakeholders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mak", is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

**Chris Mak**  
Sprinkler Certification Manager