

AON SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION

Aon New Zealand

Aon Sprinkler Certification
 Aon Building, 1st Floor,
 4 Fred Thomas Drive,
 Takapuna, North Shore City
 Telephone: 09 – 486 9761
 Fax: 09 – 486 0112

Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note		
Note Number: TN-13-10	Issue: 1	Date: 11 March 2013
Subject	NZS4541 Part 11 – Precautions to be taken when an installation is rendered inoperative	
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 the Standards New Zealand Sprinkler Committee meeting in February, compliance with NZS4541 Part 11 was discussed.

In particular, the committee was concerned that when a system is partially isolated for a significant period of time (such as overnight) for the purposes of an extension, alteration or repairs, it appears the isolation cards as shown in Figure 11.2 are not in common use.

As background information, the requirements for an isolation tag were introduced into the standard following a fire when a floor isolation valve was left shut, after a floor fitout was completed. The anti-interference device had been bridged out, so the Fire Brigade Alarm was in its “Normal” state. This was only discovered after a small fire, when the sprinkler system did not operate. The Committee was also aware of other “war stories” where “frying pans” and the like have been discovered many years after extensions have been completed.

This tag was introduced so if a system is partially isolated, other parties (including testers, biennial survey companies, insurance and risk management surveyors, etc) are given a visual warning of the isolation, and can seek confirmation that the sprinkler system has been fully reinstated as necessary.

Whilst for work undertaken to the 2007 edition of the Standard these tags must be used, it is recommended the tags be used for all systems. Also that contractor testing staff be instructed to monitor and review such tags on a monthly basis, to ensure that a building’s safety is not compromised by an installation being inadvertently left partially isolated.

Contractors are also reminded of the need to submit notifications of any planned isolations of greater than a 12 hour duration (or less as the system owner or designate may require), as outlined in clause 1102.1 of the Standard.





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Chris Mak

Technical Services Manager