

# 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

## Aon Sprinkler Certification Technical Note

<b>Note Number: 15-17</b>	<b>Issue: 1</b>	<b>Date: 30 June 2015</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Concealed Plate Heads</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.		

Aon has had reports of a number of poorly installed concealed plate sprinklers which have been discovered by diligent inspectors.

This includes concealed plate heads which have been extended to compensate for incorrectly set out ceilings, plates which have been glued in place (sometimes by building occupants after the plates have dropped off), plates that have been painted (either during initial construction, or during the building's life during refurbishments) and in one case, a plates that was "butchered" to be fitted to conceal a standard spray head.

Aon is recommending that during new construction, that the plates not be fitted off until the finishing trades have completed and the quality of the installation is audited by the inspection company. It is noted that this may not be practicable in all cases, especially in areas such as hotel ball rooms and the like, where scaffolding may be required to fit off the plates.

Aon also recommends that during biennial inspections (or annual inspections for installations installed in compliance with NZS4515) that where practical, that inspection companies remove a number of plates to ascertain whether any defects are not readily visible.



Concealed Sprinkler Butchered to fit a standard spray sprinkler.



Concealed sprinkler extended due first fix fitout height error

The Fire Service have published a "Heads-Up" document which describes a residential care facility fire, in which poor installation and post installation modifications to a sprinkler system could have easily resulted a fatality within a sprinklered building

<http://www.fire.org.nz/Research/Research-Investigation/Documents/Heads%20Up%20008%20-%20Residential%20Care%20Premises%20Failure%20of%20Sprinkler%20to%20Control%20Fire.pdf>

Contractors are also reminded that diligent supervision needs to be employed while if installing concealed sprinklers.