

SMOKE ALARM LEGISLATION



EXISTING DWELLINGS FOR OWNERS / OCCUPIERS

From 1 January 2017

When replacing smoke alarms, they must be of a *photoelectric* type which complies with Australian Standard (AS) 3786-2014.

Existing smoke alarms manufactured more than ten years ago must be replaced. (Note: Smoke alarms should have the date of manufacture stamped on them.)

Smoke alarms that do not operate when tested must be replaced immediately.

Existing *hardwired* smoke alarms that need replacement must be replaced with a *hardwired* smoke alarm.

From 1 January 2027

Smoke alarms in all *dwellings* must:

- i) be photoelectric (AS 3786-2014); and
- ii) not also contain an ionisation sensor; and
- iii) be less than 10 years old; and
- iv) operate when tested; and
- v) be interconnected with every other smoke alarm in the dwelling so all activate together.

Smoke alarms must be installed on each *storey*:

- i) in each bedroom; and
- ii) in hallways which connect bedrooms and the rest of the *dwelling*; or
- iii) if there is no hallway, between the bedrooms and other parts of the *storey*; and
- iv) if there are no bedrooms on a *storey* at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the most likely path of travel to exit the *dwelling*.

Smoke alarms must be either hardwired or powered by a non-removable 10 year battery, or a combination of both may be allowed.

DWELLINGS BEING SOLD, LEASED OR AN EXISTING LEASE IS RENEWED

From 1 January 2017

Requirements as for existing *dwellings*.

Existing landlord's and tenant's obligations regarding the installation and testing of smoke alarms continue.

Property sellers must continue to lodge a Form 24 with the Queensland Land Registry Office stating the requirements of the smoke alarm legislation have been met.

From 1 January 2022

Smoke alarms in the *dwelling* must:

- i) be *photoelectric* (AS 3786-2014); and
- ii) not also contain an ionisation sensor; and
- iii) be less than 10 years old; and
- iv) operate when tested; and
- v) be *interconnected* with every other smoke alarm in the *dwelling* so all activate together.

Smoke alarms must be installed on each *storey*:

- i) in each bedroom; and
- ii) in hallways which connect bedrooms and the rest of the *dwelling*; or
- iii) if there is no hallway, between the bedrooms and other parts of the *storey*; and
- iv) if there are no bedrooms on a *storey* at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the most likely path of travel to exit the *dwelling*.

Smoke alarms must be *hardwired* or powered by a non-removable 10-year battery, or a combination of both may be allowed.

NEW DWELLINGS AND DWELLINGS BEING SUBSTANTIALLY RENOVATED

From 1 January 2017

The development approval process for new *dwellings* and *substantial* renovations will ensure that building approvals received on or after this date will bring *dwellings* into compliance with the new laws.

Smoke alarms in the *dwelling* must:

- i) be *photoelectric* (AS 3786-2014); and
- ii) not also contain an ionisation sensor; and
- iii) be *hardwired* to the mains power supply with a secondary power source (i.e. battery); and
- iv) be *interconnected* with every other smoke alarm in the *dwelling* so all activate together.

Smoke alarms must be installed on each *storey*:

- i) in each bedroom; and
- ii) in hallways which connect bedrooms and the rest of the *dwelling*; or
- iii) if there is no hallway, between the bedrooms and other parts of the *storey*; and
- iv) if there are no bedrooms on a *storey* at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the most likely path of travel to exit the *dwelling*.

PRESCRIBED LOCATIONS FOR INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS

Where practicable smoke alarms must be placed on the ceiling. Smoke alarms must not be placed:

- i) within 300mm of a corner of a ceiling and a wall;
- ii) within 300mm of a light fitting;
- iii) within 400mm of an air-conditioning vent;
- iv) within 400mm of the blades of a ceiling fan.

There are special requirements for stairways, sloping ceilings, and ceilings with exposed beams. These requirements are explained in the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008*. Penalties may be imposed for non compliance with the law.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS*

Dwellings - houses, townhouses (Class 1A) and units (Class 2).

Photoelectric - the method the device uses to detect smoke.

Hardwired - connected to the domestic dwelling's electricity supply.

Interconnected - if one smoke alarm sounds all the other smoke alarms will also sound. Interconnection can be wired or wireless.

Storey - a space within a building which is situated between one floor level and the floor level or roof above.

*Refer to specific legislation for full definitions.

Source documents

- » *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*
- » *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008*
- » *Building Regulation 2006*
- » Australian Standard (AS) 3786-2014
- » *Land Title Act 1994*

For more information visit
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