

Proposed Omission of Fire Brigade Booster Connection from Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems Serving Specific Accommodation Buildings

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to communicate to industry Fire Rescue Victoria's (FRV) position on the omission of fire brigade booster connections from an AS 2118.4-2012 [1] automatic fire sprinkler system under Regulation 129 of the Building Regulations 2018 [2].

2. SCOPE

This guideline is applicable to Class 1b and Class 3 buildings, as defined by the National Construction Code 2019 – Volume 1 (NCC) [3], that are sprinkler protected in accordance with AS2118.4-2012, where FRV's Fire Rescue Commissioner has jurisdiction.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document, the following definitions and abbreviations will apply.

Independent Certifier: an accredited individual (AFSPAB, FPAA, FPAS or other accrediting body), who is independent of the designer and installer of the automatic fire sprinkler system, who is responsible for the carrying out of acceptance testing and preparation of the compliance reporting, in accordance with Section 6 of AS 2118.4-2012.

4. CONSIDERATION OF VARIATIONS UNDER REGULATION 129

4.1. PROVISION OF FIRE BRIGADE BOOSTER CONNECTIONS

Clause 3.8 of AS 2118.4-2012 requires a sprinkler system to be fitted with a single outlet fire brigade booster connection to enable the attending fire brigade to pressurise or pump water into a sprinkler system.

4.2. CONSIDERATION CRITERIA WHEN FIRE BRIGADE BOOSTER CONNECTIONS ARE OMITTED

Within the scope of this guideline, when considering a Regulation 129 report and consent submission that proposes to omit fire brigade booster connections, the Fire Rescue Commissioner requires the following criteria to be reasonably satisfied:

- i. the building must not exceed 300m² in floor area
- ii. the building must be single storey
- iii. the public infrastructure (town's) water main can satisfy the automatic fire sprinkler system's required design parameters for minimum pressure and flow
- iv. an accessible street hydrant is available, as per FRV Fire Safety guideline GL-04 Street Hydrants [4].

4.3. ALARM SIGNALLING EQUIPMENT (ASE)

The monitoring of the automatic fire sprinkler system via an ASE installation is not mandatory in all instances; however the provision of an ASE and its connection to an approved monitoring company will generally ensure prompt fire brigade response and intervention.

5. DOCUMENTATION

The following conditions will appear with the Fire Rescue Commissioner's report and consent, if it is agreed that the fire brigade booster connection will be omitted from the sprinkler system:

- the provision of test results being submitted (if applicable) from an independent recognised testing contractor (AFSPAB, FPAA, FPAS or other accrediting body) on all approved variations with the application for report and consent under Regulation 187 (occupancy)
- the provision of a duplicate copy of the completion certificate, as required by Clause 5.6 and Appendix A of AS2118.4-2012, including the water supply provisions
- the provision of a duplicate copy of the **independent certifier's** documentation, detailing compliance subject to any variations, in accordance with AS2118.4-2012
- weatherproof and fade-resistant signage that is etched, engraved or printed on metal or plastic is to be attached in a prominent location adjacent to the sprinkler stop valve. The signage must contain white letters no less than 50mm in height on a red background stating "BOOST POINT OMITTED".

6. REFERENCES

- [1] Standards Australia Fire Protection Committee FP-004, (2012) *Australian Standard 2118.4-2012 "Sprinkler protection for accommodation buildings not exceeding four storeys in height"*, Sydney, Australia: Standards Australia.
- [2] Chief Parliamentary Counsel, (2020) *Building Regulations 2018*, East Melbourne, Australia: Victorian State Government.
- [3] Australian Building Codes Board, (2019) *National Construction Code 2019 – Amendment 1*, Canberra, Australia: Australian Building Codes Board.
- [4] Fire Rescue Victoria, (2020) *Fire Safety Guideline GL-04 Street Hydrants*, Richmond, Australia: Fire Rescue Victoria.

Note: *this is a controlled document and may only be modified by authorised personnel after review by FRV Fire Safety Advisory Group.*