

Built Environment

BULLETIN

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In this bulletin:

- ASE upgrade project
- Fire protection systems upgrades
- Occupational licensing
- Fire protection systems permits sub-contract works
- Code of Practice review
- COVID-19 response

ASE UPGRADE PROJECT

Communication Services & Technology (CST) have released and published some changes to their documentation due to Covid-19 WHS compliance, corrections and clarifications.

The following documents were updated to reflect new information including:

- The ASE Pricelist 2019-2020 received an error correction on the Antenna 11dBi type to Directional.
- The ASE Support page was updated to clarify the appropriate contact method for different requests, expanded to include parts orders and clarify appropriate methods to return an ASE or parts to CST.
- The ASE FAQ was updated to clarify question 3; which explains that collection from, dropping off (ASE/parts) or attending a CST workshop is not permitted.
- The ASE Installation Guidelines were updated to address an inconsistent description of the required Antenna and coaxial cable installation location such that the same requirements now apply to outdoor or indoor mounted antennas (page 2). Version 1.2.1.

CST are currently ensuring that all new or upgrade ASE shipments include the 3118 Quick Start Guide. However, if for any reason it is missing please note that it is published on the TFS website under Building Safety Unit on the Equipment Permits page.

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS UPGRADES

Due to Covid-19, it appears that there may be certain (monitored) sites that are proposing to upgrade their FDCIE's to addressable.

Because these are voluntary upgrades, the Chief Officer would not consider this maintenance (although it could be argued its preventative maintenance).

TFS, also would not consider this to be 'Low Risk Work' as defined in the Directors Determination, but consider it to be 'notifiable work', so the work doesn't need a Building Permit, but needs a Certificate of Likely Compliance (CLC).

As such, TFS would expect to see a Minor Works Notification from a Building Surveyor (which may advise that the site is replacing an old analogue FDCIE with an addressable) prior to this change over.

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As most of these buildings would have the old thermal type detection, upgrading to smoke detection (fit for purpose) in locations not affected by steam, cooking practices or adverse weather conditions should be considered.

This Minor Works Notification may also be accompanied with a Form 35 which may state that existing cabling or similar does not meet the current requirements in relation to identification markings but is still fit for purpose.

A Building Safety Consultant would still inspect the changes once complete to ensure they meet the operational requirements of the TFS and in turn, issue a Form 48 to the Building Surveyor.

Operationally, we would also expect to see all required documentation at the FDCIE to be updated/replaced to meet the current requirements of the TFS Code of Practice. i.e. operator's manual, device specs, commissioning, block plan and A4's etc.

Please note this information and either attach a CLC or at least the Building Surveyors advice when submitting your Start Work Notification (TFS Form 6.1).

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

Occupational licensing of the fire protection industry has been in place since 2005 with the proclamation of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*. In August 2019, the Director of Building Control released a new [Occupational Licensing \(Building Services Work\) Determination 2019](#). This determination clearly outlines the requirements around Occupational Licensing.

All Technical Nominees are required to obtain and maintain an occupational license. We are receiving permit re-applications from Technical Nominees without an occupational license. All future permit renewals will be subject to the Technical Nominee having the appropriate occupational license.

The classification that Technical Nominees must apply for is known as "Builder – Fire Protection Services".

Further advice can be obtained from Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) telephone 1300 654 499 or you can find additional information [HERE](#)

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS PERMITS SUB-CONTRACT WORKS

Tasmania Fire Service has been made aware that there are Fire Protection Systems Permit holders that may be involved in 'sub-contract' arrangements/agreements where the Principle Contractor does not hold a Tasmania Fire Service Permit but are completing substantial fire protection system installation work (including cabling). This is illegal work and is in contravention of the *General Fire Regulations 2010* and the Tasmania Fire Service Code of Practice.

Additionally, fire protection system permit holders are authorising premise maintenance staff, that do not operate under their permit to undertake repairs, testing and routine servicing of fire detection systems. Again, this is illegal work and must cease.

Permit holders must undertake the work under their own Permit conditions using the tradespeople identified in the respective permit application. Permit holders cannot subcontract fire protection system works either holistically or part there-of solutions in sub-contract arrangements to principles or companies that are not permitted to Tasmania Fire Service.

Section 1.2 of the [TFS Code of Practice](#) outlines the responsibilities of Permit holders and details 'any works contracted to a third party are only performed by a sub-contractor that holds a current TFS permit.'

Additionally, section 8 of the *General Fire Regulations 2010* (link below) anyone installing Fire Protection Systems must have been deemed competent by the Chief Officer and been granted a Permit to install.

Tasmania Legislation – [General Fire Regulations 2010](#) (Refer to Section 8)

Additional information regarding the [Fire Protection Systems Permits](#) is available from the below TFS website.

Please ensure that the requirements and conditions of your Fire Protection Systems Permit is complied with.

Any questions or to report perceived breaches please send information to buildingsafetysouth@fire.tas.gov.au

CODE OF PRACTICE REVIEW

Tasmania Fire Service has received comprehensive feedback following a request for consultation into the review of the Tasmania Fire Service Fire Protection Services Code of Practice.

This feedback is very much appreciated and valued, and the challenge now is to review this feedback and where appropriate incorporate into the new version of the Code of Practice. The new version of the Code of Practice is due for release in late 2020 and all Permit holders will be notified once it is released.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Most of you will remember the Built Environment Bulletin issued in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is pleasing to note that TFS have not received any substantial issues surrounding COVID-19 and fire protection services or equipment.

This is especially pleasing considering the number of workplaces still open and operating that have essential services requiring routine servicing and repairs.

Additional information regarding the recovery process and the Tasmanian Government COVID-19 Safe Workplaces Framework can be viewed [HERE](#)

TFS have in consultation with the fire protection industry, released a [COVID-19 Fire Protection Industry Workplace Guideline](#) for contractors to use as a guide to develop and produce a COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan.

Workplaces that are **reopening** should have a safety plan in place.

Workplaces that have **continued to operate** should prepare a safety plan by 15 June 2020. Most workplaces that have continued to operate will likely be able to demonstrate that they meet the minimum standards in the measures they have already applied.