

Built Environment

BULLETIN

June 2021 - Issue 07

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DISTILLERIES & BOND STORES

The development of the microbrewery and distillery industry in Tasmania has become prolific however, many of these developments have not been assessed by the Chief Officer as a 'Special Fire Hazard Premise' and as such may not comply with the minimum requirements from a fire safety perspective.

Whilst it is not specifically the concern of those that work in the fire protection industry in relation to the building planning and development process, TFS would like to know if you have worked on any distilleries and/or bond stores where the fire safety features do not appear to be appropriate.

Following a fire at the Adams Distillery in Perth earlier this year, Building Safety Officers have raised significant concerns with the planning processes around these types of premises. TFS is in the process of developing a capability to retrospectively assess all these types of premises state-wide and we would be interested in hearing from you if you have any experiences, concerns or issues with work you may have undertaken in these premises historically.

ASE 3118 PROJECT

In June's bulletin, I mentioned the reasonably poor uptake of the new ASE 3118. We have received some feedback around the type of information permit holders will need to inform premise occupiers of their obligations. I thank those of you that have provided this information.

TFS do not want to impose unrealistic expectations on permit holders around the ASE 3118 rollout but rather we would like to take a collaborative approach to upgrade the devices. DPFEM are in the process of appointing a project officer to coordinate the project of works and support all areas of the industry and premise occupiers to ensure we meet the June 2024 deadline.

If permit holders have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Safety Unit.

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Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian Government

ASE 3118 ANTENNA INSTALLATIONS

As more dual SIM ASE 3118s are being installed, CST are receiving questions regarding antenna installations. We expect that both antennas will be installed on the outside of the building. Both Telstra and Optus coverage maps are publicly available and allow searching on an address:

- <https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/our-coverage>
- <https://www.optus.com.au/about/network/coverage>.

Increasingly we are observing that antennas installed inside a building fail to meet the minimum signal strength requirements. If there are any issues with the received signal strength, then our first question will be “where are the antennas installed?”.

There are some locations where the standard antenna will not be suitable. In the case where a different antenna is suggested, it is typically to resolve the signal losses over the longer cable run. This changes the separation required, please review our ASE Antenna Guide to check cable length included, allowable extension length and the minimum separation. The larger antennas include two hose clamp mounts but do not include a mast. We recommend any TV antenna compatible mast such as a J pole or tripod roof mount, as is available in hardware stores or electrical parts stores.

Signal strength on 4G is not the same as 3G. The Romteck ASE 3118 front display shows the received signal strength when on 3G but the calculated signal received on 4G. If after installing the ASE and antennas you can see signal strength on 3G or 4G in the recommended ranges below, then you are ready to contact FireComm and test. There is no requirement to contact CST to do a signal strength test in this case. The 3118 Quick Start Guide is being updated on the TFS website to reflect the table below.

3G Signal Strength		Suitability	4G Signal Strength		Suitability
>= -51dBm	Excellent	Recommended	>= -69dBm	Excellent	Recommended
>= -63dBm	Very Good	Recommended	>= -84dBm	Very Good	Recommended
>= -73dBm	Good	Recommended	>= -96dBm	Good	Recommended
>= -83dBm	Fair	Marginal	>= -109dBm	Fair	Marginal
>= -93dBm	Poor	Very Marginal	>= -121dBm	Poor	Very Marginal
>= -103dBm	Weak	Unsuitable	>= -134dBm	Weak	Unsuitable
>= -111dBm	Very Weak	Unsuitable	>= -146dBm	Very Weak	Unsuitable
No Service		Unsuitable	No Service		Unsuitable

CST do provide and update technical documentation which is published on the TFS website. The following documents have been updated June 2021:

- Quick Start Guide
- ASE Antenna Guide
- ASE Support
- ASE FAQ
- ASE Guide to wiring Skytron Resistor Board for TFS issued ASE.

ROUTINE SERVICE RECORDS

Routine service of fire protection systems is an extremely important role of fire permit holders. Routine service of fire protection systems can only be carried out by a Permit Holder. Recently several premise audits have identified broad issues with routine service logbook entries, including inappropriate information and not identifying the service technician and the permit holder company. Logbooks must be completed in full, clearly identifying the service provider and all logbook entries must be clearly legible.

Additionally, the name of the Technician completing the servicing must be clearly printed and signed on the logbook AND any faults and/or non-compliances identified during the servicing must be clearly written and well documented. All routine service records must be in accordance with AS1851-2012.

Can Technical Nominees please communicate these requirements to your Technicians. It is important for the purposes of audits and investigations that TFS can map back and clearly identify those that are undertaking the work and the issues and problems being identified and how they are informing the premise occupier to ensure they are rectified.

Defects with fire protection systems must be reported in line with the requirements in the Fire Protection Systems Code of Practice, Section 8.3.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TYPES

It is important that the most effective fire extinguisher is installed to suit the fire risk within buildings. Australian Standard 2444-2001 sets out the criteria for the selection of portable fire extinguishers and specifies the requirements for their application, locations and distribution. It includes a section which sets out criteria for the selection of fire blankets and specifies requirements for their location and distribution.

TFS do not recommend ABE dry powder extinguishers being installed near deep fryers in any circumstance but particularly commercial kitchens. Wet chemical and BE dry powder type extinguishers must be installed in kitchens. Where wet chemical extinguishers are installed in kitchens with deep fryers, they must be the extinguisher closest to the risk. In all cases fire extinguishers must be selected based on their suitability for the risk. Special risks include those mentioned above in commercial kitchens and electrical hazards including communications equipment where special consideration must be given to the type of extinguisher being installed.

Fire extinguisher cabinets and/or enclosures must be installed in line with the requirements in AS 2444-2001 including, where installed the frangibility of the glass being used. Glass installed in fire extinguisher cabinets must comply with the requirements of AS 2444-2001 - Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets selection and location. Section 3.6 states "*the panel shall not be less than 150mm, and the panel material shall comply with the requirements for frangibility set out in AS1603.5-1996 - Automatic fire detection and alarm systems*". A national glass manufacturer has advised the TFS that glass with a thickness of greater than 2mm is **not suitable** for this purpose.

Fire extinguisher cabinets have also been regularly found to have adhesive labels attached to the glass panel. These labels tend to hold glass in place when broken instead of allowing it to fall away which could pose a significant safety risk to the user. Where found during servicing, adhesive labels must be removed from the glass panel.