



8 February 2016

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015

We refer to the invitation for submissions received via the Master Electricians Association on 10 December 2015.

Schneider Electric is supportive and in agreement with the bill and would like to offer further suggested clarification to the proposed amendments by reference to the terms, contained within the proposal.

CLAUSE 5 Amendment of s104RB (Owner must install smoke alarm)

(2B) Also, each smoke alarm must be—

(b) powered by a battery that is—

(i) a 9V lithium battery; and

“a 9V lithium battery; and“ should be amended as follows.

(i) “A sealed-in non-removable lithium battery”

Reason: A smoke alarm that contains only a 9V lithium battery can be removed meaning the alarm is no longer operable.

CLAUSE 7 Insertion of new ss104RDA and 104RDB

104RDA Replacing battery-powered smoke alarms

It is suggested that this section should be changed to make it mandatory for the owner of a domestic dwelling, to replace 9V battery powered alarms with either 240V mains powered alarms or 10 year sealed-in non-removable lithium battery powered alarms. This should take place after either 10 years of service life or if the battery powered unit is no longer operable. Additional (non mandatory) alarms powered from 9V lithium batteries should be acceptable, however alarms requiring compliance with section 104RB should be 240V powered or sealed-in non-removable lithium battery alarm only.

Reason: Allowing the use of 9V lithium batteries provides home occupants the opportunity to remove the battery rendering the smoke alarm inoperable.



Additional Comments

Arc Fault Detection Devices (AFDD)

Of recent times the installation of Arc Fault Detection Devices (AFDD) has been debated within the AS/NZS 3000 Wiring Rules standards development committee. To this end the members agree that there is sufficient evidence that this type of device could provide enhanced protection against the development of fires from poor terminations or cable conductor failure. As there is a revision process underway for this all important standard it has been agreed that there should be a recommendation to consider the installation of such devices at the switchboard in Australia. It will of course augment and support the installation of smoke detectors, so we believe that the installation of AFDD's needs to be considered in the deliberations of the Senate Inquiry and committee review of the proposed bill.

Yours faithfully,

Clipsal by Schneider Electric