

ActivFire® Advisory Note AN-020

Changes to the ActivFire® Certification Scheme

This advisory note provides an explanation of the changes and timeline to CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme.

Background

CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme has operated for over 30 years, with origins in the former Scientific Services Laboratory (SSL). Over time, the Scheme has evolved alongside significant changes in the fire protection industry. To meet the demands of a rapidly changing world and offer greater assurance to the public, the Scheme is now undergoing important updates to its certification process.

These changes are expected to enhance the integrity of certified products and public safety. As part of this process, applicants/Registrants may experience adjustments in certification costs to reflect the added requirements, including Factory Production Control audits and expanded verification procedures

Changes to the ActivFire® Certification Scheme

Fire detection, warning, control, and intercom system products including smoke alarms and heat alarms

Currently, to gain certification by the Scheme, products in this category are required to be tested, assessed and verified by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

For products tested to European (EN) standards by laboratories agreed with the Scheme, the Scheme will continue to require:

- Verification of submitted test reports (written in English) for validity and completeness.
- Assessment of product compliance with relevant Australian Standards by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

Note: Additional testing may be required due to differences between AS and EN standards or for further verification.

For products tested to Australian Standards outside of CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory, the process outlined in ActivFire® Advisory Note AN-005, will continue to apply.

From 1st of January 2026 the following changes will apply to all newly certified or updated products:

1. Factory Production Control (FPC) audits will be introduced.
2. Audit sample testing will be conducted for some product types.



These changes will be gradually extended to existing certified products according to their type. Registrants will be notified of these timelines through additional Advisory Notes.

Note: The expanded requirements, including FPC audits and potential sample testing, are expected to result in adjustments to the certification fees. These changes reflect the Scheme's commitment to rigorous standards and enhanced public safety.

Fire suppression systems (excluding sprinkler systems)

This category includes vehicle fire suppression systems, gaseous suppression systems, condensed aerosol suppression systems, fire extinguishers, kitchen suppression systems, and fire blankets. Updates to the certification process have already commenced

From 1 January 2026, the following changes will apply to all new certifications or updated certifications in this category:

1. Scheme Witnessing of Fire Tests

Full fire extinguishment tests, application density tests, nozzle distribution tests must be witnessed by representatives of the Scheme or CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

- Test may be observed jointly with other certification bodies.
- Where applicable, tests conducted prior to 2026 add witnessed by another agency will require supplementary verification or selective test witnessing.

2. No Direct Acceptance of Third-Party Certification

Certification from external agencies will no longer be directly accepted. Applicants/ Registrants must demonstrate compliance by submitting original test reports and/or datasheets for independent verification to relevant Australian Standards by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

3. Factory Production Control (FPC) Audits

FPC audits will be introduced to ensure ongoing quality and manufacturing consistency.

Advisory notes for vehicle fire suppression systems, gaseous suppression systems and condensed aerosol suppression systems have been released since 2023. All affected systems (excluding the FPC audit requirement) must comply with the updated criteria by **April 2026**. Additional Advisory Notes will continue to be issued to guide Registrants through the transition timeline.

Note: The expanded testing and verification requirements—particularly test witnessing and FPC audits—are expected to result in increased project costs. These reflect the Scheme's commitment to robust standards, public safety, and regulatory confidence.



Pipes and flexible hoses for sprinkler and hydrant systems

An [Advisory Note](#) (AN-015) outlining changes to the certification process for flexible hoses has been published on ActivFire's website. It describes the process for certifying flexible hoses to Clause 7.6 of AS 2118.1:2017 + A1:2017 + A2:2020 + A3:2024.

For existing certifications:

- Samples of all hose models must be submitted to CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory for evaluation in order to retain certification beyond 30 April 2025.

From 1 January 2026, for new and updated certifications, the following changes will be introduced:

- 1. Third-Party Certifications Will No Longer Be Accepted**

Certification from external agencies will not be directly recognised. Applicants / Registrants must provide original test reports and/or datasheets to demonstrate compliance. These will be verified against the relevant Australian Standards by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

- 2. Factory Production Control (FPC) Audits Will Be Implemented**

These audits will ensure consistent manufacturing quality and ongoing compliance.

Note: The implementation of FPC audits and more rigorous verification is expected to result in increased certification costs. These updates aim to enhance product reliability, safety assurance, and compliance transparency.

An updated [Advisory Note](#) (AN-015) will detail the timeline for auditing.

Steel pipes

Changes to the certification process for AS 1074 steel pipes were implemented in **June 2025**, as outlined in [Advisory Note AN-003](#), available on ActivFire's website.

These changes include:

- 1. Factory Production Control (FPC) Audits at the PMU Site**

Certification now requires audits of the Primary Manufacturing Unit to verify manufacturing practices and quality control.

- 2. Verification of Test Reports**

CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory must validate reports from recognised laboratories, covering the steel tubes' mechanical and chemical properties.

- 3. Dimension and Mass Verification**

Submitted samples must undergo CSIRO evaluation to confirm compliance with specification requirements.

From 1 January 2026, all new or updated pipe certifications for use in sprinkler and hydrant systems, whether to AS 1074 or other standards like ASTM, must conform to the same rigorous requirements outlined above.



Note: The introduction of mandatory FPC audits and independent verification procedures is expected to result in increased project costs. These changes aim to ensure product integrity, safety compliance, and alignment with evolving industry standards.

Components of fire sprinkler and hydrant systems

This category includes sprinkler heads, valves, and pipe fittings, but excludes Class A monitor valves, control and indicating equipment (CIE), pipes, and pipe supports.

From 1 January 2026, the following updates will apply to all new or updated certifications within this category:

- 1. Third-Party Certification Will No Longer Be Accepted**

Certification from external agencies will not be directly recognised. Applicants / Registrants must demonstrate product conformity through the submission of original test reports and/or datasheets. These will be verified against the relevant Australian Standard by the Scheme or CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

- 2. Factory Production Control (FPC) Audits Will Be Required**

These audits will ensure ongoing compliance and consistent manufacturing quality.

Note: The introduction of FPC audits and stricter verification procedures may result in increased costs. These enhancements support public safety and the reliability of certified components within critical fire protection infrastructure.

Advisory Notes will be published and updated to inform Registrants about implementation timelines for currently certified products

Other products

Includes fire-rated cables, pipe supports, and fire hose reels certified to relevant Australian Standards.

Effective 1 January 2026, the following changes will apply to new and updated certifications in this category:

- 1. Third-Party Certifications Will No Longer Be Accepted**

Certification from external agencies will not be directly recognised. Instead, Applicants / Registrants must submit original test reports and/or datasheets demonstrating conformity with the applicable Australian Standard. These documents will be verified by the Scheme or CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

- 2. Factory Production Control (FPC) Audits Will Be Implemented**

FPC audits will ensure consistent quality and regulatory compliance across manufacturing sites.

Note: The introduction of FPC audits and independent verification requirements is likely to increase certification costs. These updates aim to reinforce the Scheme's integrity while promoting public safety and industry confidence.

Updated Advisory Notes will be published to provide Registrants with clear timelines and transition guidance for currently certified products.



New and upcoming products

As Australia's National Science Agency, CSIRO recognises the continual innovation within the fire protection sector and the importance of independent testing and certification. To support the integration of new and emerging technologies, the Scheme will implement the following process:

2. Evaluation of Product Purpose and Impact

The Scheme may investigate the function and application of a new and/or innovative product or system to determine whether it enhances public and infrastructure protection from fire and complies with current regulations and expectations.

3. Development of a CSIRO Technical Specification

If the product is found suitable, CSIRO will create a bespoke Technical Specification that outlines certification requirements. This document will include, at minimum:

- Required testing procedures and protocols
- Details of Factory Production Control (FPC) audits
- Market surveillance measures

4. Certification Upon Compliance

Products or systems that meet all requirements outlined in the Technical Specification will be formally certified under the Scheme.

Issuing Authorities

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