



ActivFire® Advisory Note AN-023

Testing and certification of heat alarms to AS 1603.3

This advisory note provides an explanation of the pathway for certification of heat alarms intended for household or residential use to AS 1603.3. It includes valuable information regarding additional requirements for ongoing certification of heat alarms to AS 1603.3 by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory and ActivFire® Scheme.

Background

AS 1603.3 is the standard for heat alarms, first published in 1996 and revised twice since. The latest revision, AS 1603.3:2018, was published on 31 January 2018. This standard specifies the requirements, test methods, and functional criteria for heat alarms intended for household or similar residential applications.

The certification pathway for heat alarms to AS 1603.3:2018 is detailed below.

Changes to Certification Provided by CSIRO

New certification of heat alarms

From January 2026, CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme will require new certifications of heat alarms, including 'private label' or 'cross-listed' heat alarms, to be evaluated to AS 1603.3:2018 in accordance with CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009 by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory.

It is a condition of ActivFire® certification that the Primary Manufacturing Unit (PMU) of the heat alarm is audited within the first six months of the initial issue date of the Certificate of Conformity by representatives of CSIRO.

Revalidation of currently ActivFire® certified heat alarms

To ensure that all heat alarms registered with CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme meet the new certification requirements, CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme shall require the following:

1. Registrants of currently ActivFire® certified heat alarms must have their heat alarms evaluated to AS 1603.3:2018, in accordance with CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009 by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory, by 31 December 2027 to maintain certification after 30 April 2028.
2. Nominated representatives of either CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory or ActivFire® Scheme team shall conduct Factory Production Control (FPC) audit of the PMU within the first 6 months of the first issue date of the Certificate of Conformity.



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Ancillary devices

Ancillary devices, such as remote controls, hubs, security panels, and Residential Control and Indicating Equipment (RCIE), must be evaluated in accordance with the requirements of CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme. For more information, refer to CSIRO Technical Specification TS-023 and TS-024.

Please note that the ActivFire® Scheme does not certify app-based functions and does not permit the silencing or temporary disablement of heat alarms using Wi-Fi app-based features. This restriction ensures that heat alarms cannot be silenced or disabled by a non-occupant of the dwelling.

Timeline of changes

September 2025

- Updated AN-023 (this document) and CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009 published.

October 2025

- All new quotes for heat alarm projects scheduled to start in January 2026 will be quoted to AS 1603.3:2018 in accordance with CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009.

January 2026

- All new heat alarm projects starting will be evaluated to AS 1603.3:2018 in accordance with CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009.

April 2026 and April 2027

- Existing ActivFire® listed heat alarms will continue to be revalidated.

December 2027

- All existing ActivFire® listed heat alarms that are to maintain certification by ActivFire® shall be evaluated to AS 1603.3:2018 in accordance with CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009.

April 2028

- Revalidation of existing ActivFire® listed heat alarms will only be available where the heat alarms meet the requirement of CSIRO Technical Specification TS-009.



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