

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Fire Systems Laboratory booked until 2026 – small projects still welcome

The Fire Systems Laboratory is currently experiencing a significant increase in demand for testing services. Due to this heightened workload, we regret to inform our test applicants that we will be unable to commence any new projects until 2026. However, we may be able to accommodate smaller projects on a case-by-case basis, depending on laboratory capacity and resource availability. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to contact us should you wish to discuss the potential for smaller projects during this period.

General

Christmas and New Year Closure Dates

ActivFire® and the Fire Systems Laboratory will be closed from 20 December 2025 to 5 January 2026. We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday period and look forward to a productive 2026 with you all.

Upcoming Changes to the ActivFire® Certification Scheme

As a reminder to all stakeholders, please be aware that significant changes to the ActivFire® Certification Scheme will take effect from 1 January 2026. These changes are extensive and will affect all users of the scheme. To ensure you are fully informed, we encourage you to review the complete document outlining these updates, titled [AN-020](#), which is available for download on the [ActivFire® website](#).

It is important that everyone reads this information thoroughly to understand how the updated requirements may affect your ongoing participation in the scheme. If you require further clarification or have questions regarding any aspect of these changes, our team is available to provide guidance. Please contact us at certification@csiro.au for assistance.

Pre-test preparation reminder – samples and forms

To ensure that projects progress as smoothly as possible, we encourage all test applicants to take the necessary steps to prepare for testing. It is essential that samples are ready for test prior to the commencement of any project. Additionally, applicants should ensure that all required documentation is prepared and organised in accordance with ActivFire® requirements.

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Documents needed for certification and updates

Another friendly reminder that for ActivFire® to update an existing product certificate or to certify a new product, the Applicant/Registrant is required to complete the relevant forms published on the [ActivFire website](#).

To enable a more efficient process, please include any datasheets, brochures, technical specifications, and evidence of conformity in English when the forms are returned.

By having samples and documentation ready, test applicants can help facilitate efficient project progress and minimise potential delays during the evaluation process. Proper preparation helps us help you.

Certification Requirements for “Private Label” and “Co-Listing” Products

The ActivFire® Certification Scheme recognises “private label” and “co-listing” products as distinct and new products. As such, each “private label” or “co-listing” product must undergo a thorough evaluation process to ensure compliance with the relevant product standard. This assessment is necessary to verify that the product meets all required criteria, regardless of its association with an existing certified item.

It is important to note that the use of a parent product’s ActivFire certificate of conformity should not be used as evidence of suitability for “private label” or “co-listing” products. Each product must provide its own supporting documentation and successfully complete the evaluation process as outlined in the scheme requirements.

Usage of the ActivFire® Scheme Name, Mark and Logo

We love to see Activfire out there! However, some instances of misuse of the ActivFire® Scheme name, mark and logo were identified in the past year. We’d like to remind Registrants about responsibilities and contractual requirements in the usage of the ActivFire® Scheme name, mark and logo. Please refer to the terms and conditions, and the following [Advisory Note](#). If you have any questions about correct and authorised use of Scheme identification and how it can serve your business, please contact certification@csiro.au.

Contact and product updates

Please note that it remains a Registrant’s responsibility to promptly inform ActivFire® of any updates and changes relating to a certified product or to the business entities and related contacts involved in the certification process and maintenance of certification. A product may be deemed to be non-conforming if this process is not followed, as detailed in the Scheme rules.

Changes to the legal entity of the Registrant must be registered with ActivFire®, with processing fees in accordance with Item 3 of ActivFire® Scheme Schedule of Services and Fees document ([AF-F003](#)). Please ensure that appropriate documentation is provided confirming the details of the entity change, such as sale of the business entity.

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Standards, Technical Specification and Advisory Notes Updates

General

ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory will be providing updates regarding the details of changes to the scheme according to product types via Advisory Notes and Technical Specifications. These can be found on the ActivFire website; please check the ActivFire® website regularly for updates.

Updates to certification requirements

Smoke alarms

ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory have updated its Advisory Note AN-009 which describes the new process required for the certification of smoke alarms to AS 3786:2023 from January 2026. These changes require all smoke alarms to be evaluated in accordance with Technical Specification TS-007. Additionally, any auxiliary devices associated with smoke alarms, such as remote controls, hubs, security panels, or Residential Control and Indicating Equipment (RCIE), must be evaluated to either TS-023 or TS-024.

Heat alarms

ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory have published Advisory Note (AN-023) outlining changes to the certification of heat alarms under CSIRO's ActivFire® Scheme has been published. These changes require all heat alarms to be evaluated in accordance with Technical Specification TS-009. Additionally, any auxiliary devices associated with smoke alarms, such as remote controls, hubs, security panels, or Residential Control and Indicating Equipment (RCIE), must be evaluated to either TS-023 or TS-024.



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Fire suppression systems

ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory have announced revised requirements regarding the certification and recertification of fire suppression systems. These updates apply to a range of systems, including condensed aerosol suppression systems, gaseous suppression systems, and fire suppression systems for mobile and transportable equipment.

The updated requirements stipulate that fire suppression tests must be witnessed, and reports must be reviewed in accordance with the most recent revision of the relevant standards. This ensures that certified systems continue to meet the highest safety and performance benchmarks.

In certain cases, suppression systems that were previously certified under historic or outdated criteria may not be eligible for recertification in 2026 if they do not comply with the latest requirements. For further details, refer to the following Advisory Notes:

- [AN-006](#): Mobile and transportable equipment fire suppression systems
- [AN-007](#): Condensed aerosol suppression systems
- [AN-008](#): Gaseous suppression systems

It is important to note that although ActivFire® certifies condensed aerosol suppression systems to AS 4487, this certification does not automatically lead to certification under AS 5062, which covers fire prevention and protection for mobile and transportable equipment. Achieving certification to AS 5062 requires a specific evaluation that considers the unique application of the system prior to approval.

From January 2025, both new certifications and recertifications of kitchen suppression systems and portable fire extinguishers will be subject to evaluation and verification by ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory. This process will include a review of external reports and the witnessing of relevant fire suppression tests to ensure compliance with updated standards.

Additionally, Advisory Note [AN-022](#) and Technical Specification [TS-022](#) have been issued for pre-engineered kitchen suppression systems. These systems must fulfil the new requirements outlined in the Technical Specification by December 2027 in order to maintain certification beyond 2028.



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AS 1074 steel pipes

Effective from 1 June 2025, ActivFire® will implement revised procedures for certifying steel pipes that conform to AS 1074. All new certifications of these steel pipes must undergo a comprehensive evaluation carried out by CSIRO's Fire Systems Laboratory. This evaluation process is structured around the guidelines and criteria set out in the CSIRO Technical Specification [TS-017](#).

A key component of the certification process is the requirement for Factory Production Control Audits. These audits are designed to ensure that the manufacturing practices and production controls employed for steel pipes are consistent with the rigorous quality and compliance standards detailed in TS-017. By enforcing these standards, ActivFire® seeks to uphold the quality, reliability, and safety of steel pipe products intended for use in fire suppression and associated systems.

From 2027 onwards, all AS 1074 steel pipes currently certified by ActivFire® will be required to satisfy the updated requirements specified in TS-017 in order to maintain their certification status.

For comprehensive guidance and detailed information regarding the certification process for AS 1074 steel pipes, stakeholders are encouraged to consult Advisory Note [AN-003](#).

Steel pipes to international standards

In September 2025, ActivFire® and CSIRO's Fire System Laboratory released Advisory Note [AN-024](#), detailing significant changes to the certification process for steel pipes manufactured to international standards under the CSIRO ActivFire® Scheme. Under these updated requirements, all steel pipes produced to international criteria must now undergo a thorough evaluation process aligned with the specifications outlined in Technical Specification [TS-027](#).

A critical aspect of this revised certification process involves Factory Production Control Audits. These audits are integral in verifying that the manufacturing procedures and production controls applied to steel pipes comply with the stringent quality and compliance benchmarks established in TS-027. By enforcing these protocols, ActivFire® aims to ensure that steel pipe products used in fire suppression and related systems consistently meet high standards for quality, reliability, and safety.

From 2027 onwards, any steel pipes to international standards that have already been certified by ActivFire® will also be required to comply with the enhanced requirements specified in TS-027. This measure is necessary for maintaining ongoing certification status within the ActivFire® Scheme.



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Flexible tubes

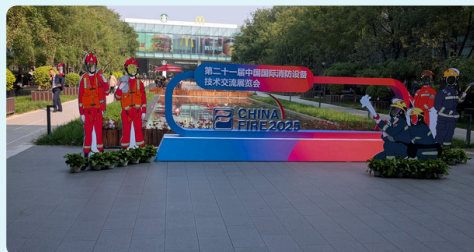
As of 1 March 2024, ActivFire® has required that new certifications of flexible tube assemblies undergo an evaluation for conformity to the relevant requirements of Clause 7.6 of AS 2118:2017 +A1:2017 +A2:2020 +A3:2024. ActivFire® requires that all currently certified flexible tube products meet these updated requirements prior to 30 April 2025. Additional information can be found in Advisory Note [AN-015](#).

Recent and Upcoming Visits, Conferences, and Exhibitions

Past Activities

During October, Dr. Christopher Preston, Director of CSIRO Infrastructure Technologies, along with a delegation led by CSIRO, travelled to Detroit, USA, to participate in the Battery Show. This event allowed us to showcase Australia's capabilities within the battery value chain.

Meanwhile, Kai Loh, Team Leader of ActivFire and the Fire Systems Laboratory, together with Gabriel Duarte Raposo, Technical Officer for Fire Systems Laboratory, attended China Fire in Beijing, China. China Fire is recognised as the largest exhibition for fire protection in China, providing valuable exposure to the latest trends and technologies in the industry.



In addition, Kai Loh attended the IFE conference in Perth as part of AFAC in August, where he gained significant insights into emergency response strategies.

Forthcoming Engagements

Looking ahead, CSIRO's Infrastructure Technologies is scheduled to exhibit at several prominent events. These include Intersec Dubai, held from 12–14 January 2026 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, and Fire Australia, taking place from 5–7 May 2026 in Melbourne, Australia.

For the first time, the organisation will also be represented at Interschutz in Hannover, Germany, from 01–06 June 2026. Stakeholders and attendees planning to participate in these conferences and exhibitions are invited to contact CSIRO Infrastructure Technologies to arrange face-to-face meetings.

To keep up to date with ActivFire and Fire Systems Laboratory, please visit our website at <https://vs.csiro.au/activefire> or follow us on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/csiro-infratsructure-technologies>