Smoke alarm legislation changes in Queensland

On 1 January 2017 new smoke alarm legislation was introduced in Queensland. The legislation is being rolled out in a staged approach over 10 years, with all dwellings to be compliant by 1 January 2027.

The new legislation specifies the type, positioning and *interconnectedness* of alarms, which are critical factors for an early warning and quick escape.

Key Dates	1 Jan 2017	1 Jan 2022	1 Jan 2027
Existing *dwellings*	ER		NR
Dwellings being sold, leased or an existing lease is renewed	ER	NR	
New *dwellings* and *dwellings* being *substantially renovated*	NR		

ER = Existing requirements, NR = New requirements

Glossary of Terms

Dwelling: houses, townhouses (Class 1A) and units (Class 2).

Interconnected: if one smoke alarm sounds all the smoke alarms sound. *Interconnection* can be wired or wireless.

Photoelectric: the method the device uses to detect smoke.

Hardwired: connected to the domestic *dwelling*'s electricity supply.

Substantial renovation: work carried out under a building development approval and the total building works equals 50% of the *dwelling* over 3 years.

Existing Requirements

- When replacing smoke alarms, they must be *photoelectric* and comply with Australian Standard (AS) 3786-2014.
- Existing smoke alarms manufactured more than 10 years ago must be replaced.
- Smoke alarms that do not operate when tested must be replaced immediately.
- Existing *hardwired* smoke alarms that need replacing must be replaced with a *hardwired* smoke alarm.
- Existing battery powered alarms being upgraded may be either powered by a non-removable 10 year battery or *hardwired*.
- Existing landlord's and tenant's obligations regarding the installation and testing of smoke alarms continue.

New Requirements

- Smoke alarms in *dwellings* must:
  i. be *photoelectric* (AS3786-2014); and
  ii. not also contain an ionisation sensor; and
  iii. be less than 10 years old; and
  iv. operate when tested; and
  v. be *interconnected* with every other smoke alarm in the dwelling.
- Smoke alarms must be installed on each storey:
  i. in each bedroom; and
  ii. in hallways that connect bedrooms and the rest of the *dwelling*; or
  iii. if there is no hallway, between the bedrooms and other parts of the storey; or
  iv. if there are no bedrooms on a storey at least one smoke alarm must be installed in the most likely path of travel to exit the *dwelling*.

Don't wait to make the switch.

Get up to date now.

For more information scan the QR code or visit:

www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms

Queensland Government