



# FORMAL INTERPRETATIONS



30 05 2005

*Question:*

*Std: NZS 4541*

Does AS/NZS3000:2000 2.9.8.4 (h) contradict the requirements of NZS4541 515.1 (a).

Background: AS/NZS3000 states that main and emergency switchboards shall not be installed near automatic sprinklers which may affect their operation, unless they are protected from the effects of the automatic sprinkler system. NZS4541 requires that any cupboards housing electrical switchboards be sprinkler protected.

*Interpretation:*

*Issued by the Alarms and Detection Group*

No. The two clauses do not contradict. In most cases, it is expected that switchboards be housed in enclosures/cabinets that will shield them from the direct impact of sprinkler discharge. In addition, sprinklers are expected to only operate if a fire has occurred, which will have materially adversely affected the operation of the switchboard, without accounting for the marginal increase in damage from the sprinkler operation.

In many cases, it will be prudent to provide additional protection to the sprinkler, if mechanical damage is likely. This could be provided in the form of listed guards, or by use of concealed sprinklers.

*FI 037*