

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 stages over 10 years, with all dwellings to be compliant by 1 January 2027.

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

	1 January 2017	1 January 2022	1 January 2027
Existing <i>dwellings</i>	Existing requirements		New requirements
<i>Dwellings</i> being leased (new lease and renewed) or sold	Existing requirements	New requirements	
New <i>dwellings</i> and <i>dwellings</i> being <i>substantially renovated</i>	New requirements		

Terms

Dwelling: houses, townhouses (Class 1A) and sole-occupancy 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 *dwelling's* electricity supply.

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 must be replaced with a hardwired smoke alarm.
- » Existing battery powered alarms can be replaced with a hardwired alarm or one powered by a non-removable 10 year battery.
- » 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.

Upgrade your smoke alarms now.

For more information scan the QR code or visit [qfes.qld.gov.au/smoke alarms](https://qfes.qld.gov.au/smoke-alarms)

