

Position Statement on Ionisation and Photoelectric Smoke Alarms October, 2014

Two types of smoke alarms are commonly found in Australian homes; Photoelectric and Ionisation. Both can be legally purchased and used as both meet the required Australian Standard AS3786. However, the way in which they detect a fire is entirely different. Photoelectric alarms are proven to be more effective and faster to respond in cases of smouldering fires, which is how most house fires start. This provides occupants with the precious time required to escape to safety. Ionisation alarms are also prone to more false alarms, often resulting in people removing the battery and thereby losing all protection. Visit the [Detector Inspector Blog](#) for more information on the difference between the alarm types.

What Fire Authorities Recommend

Photoelectric smoke alarms are the only type recommended by Australian Fire Authorities and Fire Brigades, as well as the International Association of Fire Fighters. A global campaign is now calling for a total ban of ionisation alarms and in addition to a number of US States, the Northern Territory Fire Service has already legislated against their use in the region.

The Detector Inspector Service

Detector Inspector takes fire safety very seriously. Tenant safety is our core focus. In accordance with these recommendations, Detector Inspector only install or replace smoke detectors with photoelectric smoke alarms. If a property has ionisation smoke alarms installed you are not legally required to change them to photoelectric prior to their expiration. However, in the interests of ensuring maximum occupant safety Detector Inspector will offer to change ionisation alarms to photoelectric at heavily subsidised rates as below:

9v smoke alarm changed to photoelectric	\$ 22.00 +GST
240v smoke alarm changed to photoelectric	\$ 79.00 +GST

Should a landlord not wish to pay for this service, but it is requested by a tenant, please refer the tenant to us. We will arrange the service with them, obtaining payment directly and organizing a time for a technician visit. There will be no cost to the landlord.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you, your landlords or tenants may have in relation to smoke detectors and home fire safety.

DISCLAIMER

Offer valid until November 30, 2014, redeemable upon mention of the 60 minutes investigation. Applicable only for existing clients on our annual service. New clients will also be charged the standard annual service pricing. For existing clients the change-over service will not affect the pre-existing annual service date. Should the agent wish to run the change-over service on behalf of the clients throughout the agency, it must be applied to all properties on the rental roll. Where a change-over service takes place outside of the annual service schedule, existing clients on a fixed fee service will incur the additional costs as stipulated above.