

# 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 smoke alarms, which are critical factors for an early warning and quick escape.

## Key Dates

	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		

## 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.

## 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 *dwelling*s 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:



[www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms)

