16 July 2024

**Release of Design Guidance Note: Fire Engineering Design for New Zealand Public Hospitals**

The webinar on the release of the Fire Design Guidance Note: Fire Engineering Design or NZ Public Hospitals, included a Q&A session. Refer [here](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/publications/design-guidance-note-fire-engineering-design-for-new-zealand-public-hospitals/) for document and webinar.

Listed below are the questions and answers that were not answered during the Q&A session due to time constraints.

| Question | Response  |
| --- | --- |
| What is our duty of care to assure some form of compliance with fire safety guidelines if we use a private hospital to undertake services on our behalf? | The fire design guideline note (DGN) is for new builds and major refurbishments, for Health NZ owned buildings.  We would expect private hospitals we utilise to comply with legislative requirements, including the Building Act. |
| How flexible can this design guide be if some hospitals needed to be adopted for emergencies, such as pandemics. | For alterations to existing buildings the DGN should be understood and considered where feasible. The DGN describes the process to be followed for alterations. Special circumstances will need to be taken into account. A supplement is being developed to provide greater prioritisation of risks that need to be considered when making alterations to existing buildings. This supplement may be incorporated into the DGN in the future. |
| Similar to how I understand transport engineers assess roading upgrades (looking at the monetary value of a human life when making a business case), has the WG considered further guidance on defining at what point the extent of compliance/upgrades meets the definition of "ANARP" set in the Building Act? | Fire safety and risk has not been evaluated in a quantitative sense for developing the DGN, although many of the design requirements which need to balance cost vs. benefit were considered in a quantitative sense. The working group is aware that this becomes much more important when designing alterations to existing hospital buildings. Further guidance on ANARP principles for alterations to existing buildings is expected to be published in the very near future. |
| How many BCA's have given their support for this Guideline? | The Fire DGN is endorsed by MBIE and may be considered by BCA’s when consenting the proposed work. |
| Regarding the content in Section 12, the data is quite scarce regarding preparation times and pre-movement activities and reconnection times for higher-acuity patients. It seems there is a need for improved inputs in the future. | Some references are provided. It is recognised that further work on Part 3 would be required to include the latest research information and data that would assist the engineers.  |

**For any enquiries please contact:**

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