



# Interconnection of smoke alarms – for construction of new dwellings only

**This bulletin provides guidance for the building industry and electricians in relation to the new interconnection requirements for mains-powered residential smoke alarms under the Building Code of Australia (BCA).**

The 2014 edition of the BCA will require interconnection of smoke alarms where more than one alarm is required to be installed in a Class 1 building, a unit in a Class 2 building or a Class 4 dwelling.

While this requirement in the BCA 2014 takes effect on 1 May 2014, regulation 31A(2)(b) of the Building Regulations 2012 provides a 12 month transition period allowing the building surveyor who is certifying the plans and specifications of the dwelling to nominate the applicable building standards of the building code that was in effect 12 months before the time the application for the building permit was made.

This will allow buildings to comply with and be approved to BCA 2013 until 30 April 2015. Therefore, if the plans and specifications of the dwelling were certified as compliant with the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the BCA 2013 (or an earlier edition), interconnection of smoke alarms would not be required. Electricians will need to liaise with the builders to determine the applicable edition of the BCA.

The requirement to interconnect is linked to the edition (version) of the BCA that is nominated on the certificate of design compliance. Where the certifying building surveyor nominates BCA 2013 (up until 30 April 2015) interconnection is not required; BCA 2014 or later interconnection is required. Please refer to the table below.

Building permit application lodged	Requirement
Before 1 May 2014	Interconnection is not required
Between 1 May 2014 and 30 April 2015	Interconnection requirements depend on the version of the BCA nominated in the certificate of design compliance
On or after 1 May 2015	Interconnection is required

Please refer to Industry Bulletin 41 for information on interconnection requirements in existing dwellings that are subject to sale, transfer of ownership, lease or hire.

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this bulletin is provided as general information only and should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations you should obtain independent legal advice.

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