**Fire and Smoke Alarms – changes to the law**

Every home in Scotland must have interlinked fire alarms by February 2022. These can be either mains-wired or tamper-proof battery alarms.­ Being interlinked means if one alarm goes off, they all go off. You may not always hear the alarm closest to the fire, especially if you’re somewhere else in the house or asleep. The legislation is intended to improve fire safety and an interlinked system will alert you immediately.

If an existing alarm system is not interlinked, or doesn’t have alarms in all the prescribed areas, then additional **standard** alarms are required to meet the new rules. New battery and existing mains-wired alarms can be interlinked if they are compatible with a radio link in the additional alarms.

Sensory Impairment equipment - The legislation does not apply to **specialist** alarms.

The legislation does not require removal or replacement of existing **specialist** alarms e.g. alarms that feature high-intensity strobe lights and wired vibration pillow pads. If someone has an existing **specialist** alarm, they may want the required additional standard alarms to connect to it. There are companies which manufacture compatible specialist accessories already available e.g. Fire Angel and Aico, and these standard inter-linked systems may also be compatible with existing specialist alarms, depending on the type of installation. Currently, the alarms available through Scottish Fire and Rescue cannot be connected to an existing specialist alarm.

If you need additional standard alarms to meet the new standard, it is important to choose ones that will work with your existing specialist alarms. This will avoid having to have two separate systems and ensure that you are protected.

You can contact your local health and social care partnership Sensory Impairment services or equipment services, who should be able to advise you.

They may also be able to help if you do not already have alarms and need specialist equipment, and can assess your needs in order to provide suitable products.

Please see information for home owners, tenants (private), tenants (housing association and local authority) and fire safety for new build homes at: [Make sure your home is fire safe - mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot/home-fire-safety)

**Help with costs**

For tenants, financial responsibility for installing standard and specialist alarms lies with the local authority or the private landlord.

Under the Equality Act, tenants (both social and private renting) can ask their landlord to make certain changes to the property that are needed to avoid the disabled person being at a disadvantage, and appropriate fire and smoke alarms for deaf or deafblind people fit into that category.

Private homeowners on low incomes who are older or disabled may be able to get help with costs by contacting their local [Care and Repair service](http://www.careandrepairscotland.co.uk/office-locations.html)

For further information go to :

[Fire and smoke alarms: changes to the law - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/)

Please see BSL version of the video in this link at  <https://youtu.be/_l0fgET7-2k>

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) will only install alarms in the homes of people assessed to be at high risk from fire as part of a home fire safety visit.

For advice on fire safety or to request a Home Fire Safety Visit, contact The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 0731 999 or visit the [Scottish Fire and Rescue service website](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx)