

SMOKE, HEAT AND CO DETECTOR POLICY

30 June 2022

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| Prepared by: | Grahame Bell |
| Date effective from: | 30/06/2022 |
| Procedure approved by: | OMT |
| Review Date: | 30/06/2024 |

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| EIA Required? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| EIA Completed? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Revision number: | 06 |
| Lead officer: | Steve Leonard |

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Stockport Homes Group (SHG) has a duty and a legal responsibility to ensure that tenants are protected from the effects of fire, smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning. SHG recognises that the provision of suitable and sufficient smoke, heat and CO detectors to provide tenants with adequate warning in case of fire and / or CO fumes are essential in meeting those responsibilities.

1.2 This policy seeks to explain SHGs approach to the provision and maintenance of smoke, heat and CO detectors.

2 SCOPE

2.1 The scope of this policy seeks to explain SHGs approach to the installation, testing and replacement of smoke, heat and CO detectors.

2.2 This policy applies specifically to the installation, testing and replacement of detection devices in individual rented residential dwellings.

2.3 The current regulations and standards which guide SHG management and operational practices in relation to smoke, heat and CO detectors are:

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005
- British Standard (BS) 5829-6:2019 – Code of practice for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of fire detection and fire alarm systems in domestic premises.
- Building Regulations Approved Document B

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Smoke, Heat and CO detectors are designed to provide an audible or visual alarm, alerting persons to the potential presence of smoke, excessive heat or CO so that immediate action can be taken to address the issue and vacate the property, thus protecting lives and property.

3.2 A smoke detector is a device that detects smoke, typically as an indicator of fire. Commercial, industrial, and mass residential devices issue a signal to a fire alarm system which then sends an audible signal throughout the building. Household detectors, known as smoke alarms, generally issue a local audible or visual alarm from the detector itself.

3.3 Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are devices that detect the presence of Carbon Monoxide. CO is a colourless, odourless and a tasteless gas which is product of incomplete combustion. It is often referred to as 'the silent killer' as without detection equipment it is virtually undetectable. Prolonged exposure can be fatal in certain circumstances. Lengthy exposure even in small doses, can lead to long term health problems.

3.4 Heat detectors are devices that give an audible alarm when the temperature reaches 58C. These are generally fitted in or around kitchen/cooking areas to detect high levels of heat which may not generate smoke.

3.5 BS 5829-6:2019 details the recommended “Grade” and “Category” of detection system that should be fitted in domestic properties in order to protect lives. An extract from the BS of these Grades and Categories is provided in Appendix one.

3.6 Currently all SHG domestic properties are fitted with a minimum of a grade F1, category LD3 system, level meaning that as a minimum there will be a battery-operated smoke alarm in the hallway and landing and a heat detector in the kitchen.

4 OUR OBLIGATIONS

- To ensure that suitable and sufficient smoke, heat and CO detection is fitted and maintained in order to protect life and property.
- To implement a suitable and sufficient detection testing regime.
- To ensure that any detectors reported or found to be faulty are repaired or replaced in a timely manner
- To ensure compliance with the relevant standards and regulations as listed in section two.
- To deliver an annual gas safety check and servicing regime to minimize the risk of the production of carbon monoxide from gas appliances.
- To raise awareness of the importance of tenant’s testing detectors in their property.

5 STATEMENT OF INTENT

5.1 In line with the recommendation in revised version of BS 5829-6 issued in 2019 it is SHG intention to work towards upgrading the fire alarm system in all existing domestic properties to a grade D1, category LD2 system. This will comprise of a minimum of a mains powered detector, with tamper proof back up battery in the following locations. All alarms will be connected via a radio link.

- Hallway – smoke alarm
- Landing – smoke alarm
- Living Room – smoke alarm
- Kitchen – heat detector

5.2 There is currently no requirement for social landlords to fit CO detectors, it is however the intention that as properties are upgraded to a grade D1, category LD2 system that CO detection will be fitted in properties with gas or solid fuel appliances:

- A combined heat and CO detector in the kitchen

- A combined smoke and CO detector in the living room if there is a gas appliance.
- A CO Alarm In any room where a boiler flue passes through
- A combined smoke and CO detector on the landing if a boiler is fitted in the bathroom

5.3 Properties will be identified and upgraded to a grade D1, category LD2 system during:

- Change of tenancy.
- Kitchen and Bathroom Replacement
- Rewires identified from a Fixed wire test (2300 test per year carried out)

5.4 Detection equipment is tested for operation during the activities listed below and will be replaced as necessary. This will involve testing the alarm to ensure it sounds. The expiry date of the alarm head will also be checked and the alarm head replaced as necessary, e.g. on a gas safety check the head will be replaced if its expiry date is within the following 12 months.

- Annual Gas Safety Check
- Electrical Fixed Wire Test
- At change of tenancy.

5.5 Any detectors that are faulty, damaged, expired or missing will be replaced at the time of one of the visits above. If an immediate replacement is not possible the property is temporarily protected by installing a battery powered detector

5.6 In properties with a gas supply an Annual Gas Safety Check is carried out, this includes testing for any CO leaks.

5.7 In the event of a CO alarm activation being reported by a tenant, they will be advised to immediately turn off all gas appliances, open all windows, not to use Naked flames or electrical switches, Call Cadent on 0800 111 999 and if possible, to leave the property. Once Cadent have visited and made safe, we will deploy our Gas Engineer to rectify any fault. and to test for CO.

5.8 Residents are encouraged to test their alarms regularly. This is explained to the resident at installation and renewal of alarms, manufacturer's instructions are also left on site. Regular fire safety campaigns are also ran on SHG social media channels. Customers are also advised at tenancy sign up that they should test their alarms weekly.

5.9 SHG are not responsible for the maintenance and replacement of detectors that have been fitted or installed by tenants themselves. When identified these are removed and replaced.

6 CERTIFICATION

6.1 A Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate and a Certificate of Design / Installation / Commissioning of a Fire Detection and Alarm System

must be produced for every detection system, which is installed, and every upgrade to an existing system.

7 KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Responsibility for ensuring suitable, sufficient and adequately maintained smoke, heat and CO detection are fitted sits with a number of teams within the Operations Directorate.

- Annual Gas Safety Check – Customer Safety – M&E Manager
- Electrical Fixed Wire Test - Customer Safety – M&E Manager
- At change of tenancy – Repair 1st – Operations Manager
- Kitchen and Bathroom Replacement – Investment – Project Leader
- When a full re-wire is arranged – Customer Safety – M&E Manager.

7.2 The persons listed above are responsible for ensuring existing detection is tested and replaced if required and in the case of a change of tenant, kitchen & bathroom replacement or rewire, instigating an upgrade to a grade D1, category LD2 system.

7.3 In the event of a tenant reporting a faulty smoke or heat alarm, this will be attended to by a 360 electrician who are responsible for ensuring suitable repair or replacement.

7.4 In the event of a CO alarm activation being reported the Customer Safety Team will arrange for a gas engineer to attend to test for CO. The Customer Safety Team will arrange the replacement of the CO detector if needed.

8 TRAINING

8.1 All hard wired detection systems must be installed by a NICEIC registered electrician.

8.2 All operatives responsible for testing detection systems will have been trained to test in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 An Equality Impact Relevance Screening has determined that a full EIA is not required.

10 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING & REVIEW

10.1 The Policy is owned by the Operations Directorate and will be monitored by the Operations Management Team.

10.2 The Policy will be reviewed in line with the Operations Management Policy and Procedure Review Schedule to ensure that the policy reflects current legislation, guidance, and operating practice.

APPENDIX ONE

ALARM SYSTEM “GRADE”

- *Grade A: A fire detection and fire alarm system, which incorporates CIE conforming to BS EN 54-2 and power supply equipment conforming to BS EN 54-4, and which is designed and installed in accordance with all the recommendations of BS 5839-1:2017, Section 1 to Section 4 inclusive, except those in the following clauses, for which the corresponding clauses of this part of BS 5839 need to be substituted.*

| <i>Clause/subclause of BS 5839-1:2017</i> | <i>Corresponding clause/subclause of BS 5839-6</i> |
|---|---|
| <i>16 (Audible alarm signals)</i> | <i>13 (Audible fire alarm devices and audibility)</i> |
| <i>18 (Fire alarm warnings for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing)</i> | <i>14 (Fire alarm warnings for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing)</i> |
| <i>20 (Manual call points)</i> | <i>18 (Manual call points)</i> |
| <i>25.4e) (Capacity of standby batteries)</i> | <i>15.2c) (Capacity of standby batteries)</i> |
| <i>27 (Radio-linked systems)</i> | <i>21 (Radio-linked systems)</i> |

- *Grade B: Not currently defined.*
- *Grade C: A system of fire detectors and alarm sounders (which may be combined in the form of smoke alarms) connected to a common power supply, comprising the normal mains and a standby supply, with central control equipment.*
- *Grade D1: A system of one or more mains-powered detectors (see 3.12), each with a tamper-proof standby supply consisting of a battery or batteries (see 3.62).*
- *Grade D2: A system of one or more mains-powered detectors (see 3.12), each with an integral standby supply consisting of a user-replaceable battery or batteries.*
- *Grade E: Not currently defined.*
- *Grade F1: A system of one or more battery-powered detectors (see 3.12) powered by a tamper-proof primary battery or batteries (see 3.62).*
- *Grade F2: A system of one or more battery-powered detectors (see 3.12) powered by a user-replaceable primary battery or batteries.*

ALARM SYSTEM “CATEGORY”

- *Category LD1: a system installed throughout the premises, incorporating detectors in all circulation areas that form part of the escape routes from the premises, and in all rooms and areas, other than those with negligible sources of ignition, such as toilets, bathrooms and shower rooms;*
- *Category LD2: a system incorporating detectors in all circulation areas that form part of the escape routes from the premises, and in all specified rooms or areas that present a high fire risk to occupants, including any kitchen and the principal habitable room (see Clause 4);*
- *Category LD3: a system incorporating detectors in all circulation areas that form part of the escape routes from the premises.*