

Did You Know?

Factsheet #2

Fire Alarm Zones

BS 5839-1:2002 has some specific recommendations in respect to detection zones

- Zones should be restricted to single floors, except where the total floor area of a building is less than 300m².
- Voids above or below the floor area of a room may be included in the same zone as long as they are both within the same fire compartment. Ceiling voids greater than 800mm may require separate detection.
- Zones should not be larger than 2,000m² except for manual systems in single storey open plan buildings, such as a warehouse, where up to 10,000m² is allowed.
- Fire detectors in an enclosed stairwell, lift shaft or the like should be considered as a separate zone.
- The search distance within a zone should be less than 60m (all possible entrance points must be considered). This can be relaxed when using addressable systems if the information provided at the control & indicating equipment would allow fire fighters, unfamiliar with building, to proceed directly to the location of the fire. The search distance only relates to the distance from entering a zone to being able to determine the location of the fire. It is not necessary to travel to the fire.
- Zones should not cross fire compartments. A fire compartment can contain several zones but a zone should not contain more than one fire compartment.