



Age Concern Ayr

Guide to

New Smoke & Fire Alarms

For Feb 2022

(Extracted for simpler reading from the Scottish Government online guide)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

Fire and smoke alarms: changes to the law in Scotland in Feb 2022



The law on fire alarms in Scotland is changing from February 2022 which means all Scottish homes will need to have **interlinked** alarms.

Every home in Scotland must have interlinked fire alarms by February 2022.

Interlinked means if one goes off, they all go off, so you will always hear an alarm wherever you are in your home.

The new law has come about because of the Grenfell fire in London in 2017, and it applies to all Scottish homes. It is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard.

What each home needs

By February 2022 **every Scottish home** must have:

- one smoke alarm in the living room or the room you use most
- one smoke alarm in every hallway or landing
- one heat alarm in the kitchen

All smoke and heat alarms should be mounted on the ceiling and be interlinked.

If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance – like a boiler, fire, heater or flue – in any room, you must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room, but this does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.

There are two types of alarms

You can use either:

- (1) Sealed battery alarms
or
- (2) Mains-wired alarms.

Both types of alarm are interlinked by radio frequency **and do not need WiFi.**

What the alarms must have

If you use **battery alarms**, they must be sealed tamper-proof units and have long-life lithium batteries, which can be up to 10 years. You may be able to fit these types of alarms yourself and they do not need an electrician.

Mains-wired alarms are cheaper but if you use them, they must be fitted by a qualified electrician and must be replaced every 10 years. You may also need to redecorate after fitting them.

If you also need a carbon monoxide alarm and it is battery-operated, it must have a sealed battery for the duration of its lifespan.

Where and what to buy

There is no list of approved suppliers or fitters. You can buy both types of alarms online or in store from a number of retailers, and any qualified electrician can fit the mains-wired type.

You need to **check that each alarm complies** with the following standards:

- Smoke alarms BS EN14604:2005
- Heat alarms BS 5446-2:2003

- Carbon monoxide detector British Kitemark EN 50291-1

*The information in this document is copied in part from the Scottish Government Guidelines online publication at:

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