



POSITION STATEMENT SUMMARY

Fire hydrant system in existing building or premises

Position

Effective 12 September 2024, the following is a position of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW):

When a consent authority (e.g. Council) is assessing the adequacy of an existing fire hydrant system installed in accordance with the provisions of *Ordinance 70* and *Ministerial Specification 10* (or earlier), FRNSW recommend that the system be upgraded to meet the requirements of AS 2419.1:2021 to facilitate the needs of FRNSW appropriate to firefighting operations.

Additionally, any existing fire hydrant system that incorporates an internal booster connection for portable relay pumps (e.g. under *Ordinance 70*, AS 2419.1–1994) should be upgraded to remove the portable relay pump connection.

FRNSW acknowledge that all aspects of AS 2419.1:2021 may not be able to be complied with due to the characteristics and constraints of the existing fire hydrant system and/or building or premises. A bespoke upgrade solution may be required.

Note: There are differences between design standards which may make upgrading some requirements to comply with the latest Standard impractical.

Reference must be made to the FRNSW website to ensure this position is current at the time of use, and this position has not been superseded or revoked.

Summary

This position statement only applies to the relevant consent authority (i.e. Council). It should not be misused by any other proponent for any reason not intended through proper application.

This position statement supersedes the previous position last updated on 8 January 2019. The position has been revised into context in consideration of AS 2419.1:2021 now being the standard for fire hydrant systems as referenced by the NCC.

This position advises the consent authority assessing the adequacy of an existing fire hydrant system to upgrade any system that is designed and installed under *Local Government Ordinance 70: Building and Ministerial Specification 10* (or earlier), as such hydrant systems no longer facilitate the needs of the fire brigade.

The position also advises the consent authority that fire hydrant systems incorporating a portable relay pump connection should be upgraded to remove the internal booster connection. FRNSW requires the fire hydrant system in a building or premises to fully operate without any need for any portable relay pumps to be used.

The position acknowledges that considerable differences in the standards between the existing fire hydrant system design as installed, and the requirements of AS 2419.1:2021, may require that a bespoke upgrade solution be considered.

Fire and Rescue NSW

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Informative commentary indicates that the differences in design standards may render compliance with the latest Standard impracticable.

This position statement has been authorised for release by Chief Superintendent Fire Safety, FRNSW.

Contact us

For further information contact the Fire Safety Branch on (02) 9742 7434 or email firesafety@fire.nsw.gov.au.