Smoke Alarms - Building Legislation Amendment (Smoke Alarms) Act 2005

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Summary The NSW Department of Planning has issued a circular to all Local Councils detailing the new Building Legislation Amendment (Smoke Alarms) Act 2005. This Act has been developed to improve community safety by making it compulsory for smoke alarms to be fitted in all new and existing homes and other buildings where people sleep. The Act will commence on 1 May 2006.
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Director-General
NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT BUILDING LEGISLATION (SMOKE ALARMS) AMENDMENT ACT 2005

The Department of Planning has issued a Circular to all local government authorities advising them of amendments to the Building Legislation Amendment (Smoke Alarm) Act 2005.

The purpose of the amendments is to advise Councils that the Government will be introducing new laws making it compulsory for smoke alarms to be fitted in all existing homes and other buildings where people sleep, including both private and public hospitals and nursing homes.

The Act amends both the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and the residential Tenancies Act 1987 to provide for the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in existing buildings in which people sleep. The provisions of the amended Act will commence on 1 May 2006.

The Department of Planning is currently developing the regulations that will provide details to the new provisions of the EP&A Act, including specific types of buildings the provisions will apply to, the types of alarms to be used and the location of the alarms within the building. Details of the Regulations will be advised once they have been determined. Copies of the new legislation are available on the NSW Parliamentary Counsel website at: http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au under "Acts in Force".

Chief Executives are to ensure that all relevant personnel under their management are aware of these new provisions.

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