

Reprint  
as at 2 October 2019



**Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation)  
Regulations 2016**  
(LI 2016/128)

Jerry Mateparae, Governor-General

**Order in Council**

At Wellington this 7th day of June 2016

Present:

The Right Hon John Key presiding in Council

These regulations are made under sections 138A and 138B of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council.

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Changes authorised by subpart 2 of Part 2 of the Legislation Act 2012 have been made in this official reprint.  
Note 4 at the end of this reprint provides a list of the amendments incorporated.

**These regulations are administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.**

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## **Regulations**

### **1 Title**

These regulations are the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Regulations 2016.

### **2 Commencement**

- (1) These regulations come into force on 1 July 2016, subject to subclauses (2) to (5).
- (2) Subpart 1 of Part 2 comes into force as follows:
  - (a) on 1 July 2016, in relation to income-related rent tenancies:
  - (b) on 1 July 2019, in relation to all other tenancies.
- (3) Regulations 25, 26, and 28 come into force on 1 July 2019.
- (4) Regulations 27 and 29 come into force on 1 October 2019.
- (5) Clauses 5 and 7 of Schedule 1 come into force on 1 July 2019.

### 3 Interpretation

- (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

**Act** means the Residential Tenancies Act 1986

**compliant**, in relation to a battery for a smoke alarm, means—

- (a) the battery accords with the manufacturer's instructions for the alarm or, in the case of a replacement battery under regulation 9(3) or 10(3), the battery is of the same type as the battery being replaced; and
- (b) unless the alarm is a hard-wired alarm, the manufacturer's instructions for the battery include a certification, or other statement, to the effect that the battery has a life span of at least 8 years; and
- (c) the battery is not worn out

**habitable space** means an interior space of a building that is a space for activities normally associated with domestic living

**income-related rent tenancy** means a tenancy, other than a boarding house tenancy,—

- (a) that commences before 1 July 2016 and in relation to which section 72(1) or 92(1) of the Public and Community Housing Management Act 1992 applies at the beginning of 1 July 2016; or
- (b) that commences on or after 1 July 2016 and in relation to which section 72(1) or 92(1) of the Public and Community Housing Management Act 1992 applies at its commencement

**manufacturer's instructions**, in relation to any item, includes any specification, instruction, recommendation, or other information relating to the item that is provided, or otherwise made available, in any way to buyers, installers, or users of the item by or on behalf of the manufacturer of the item

**NZS 4246:2016** means New Zealand Standard NZS 4246:2016 (Energy efficiency—Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings)

**qualifying smoke alarm** is to be read in accordance with regulation 7

**R-value**, in relation to any insulation, means the insulation's thermal resistance (*see* subclause (2))

**reasonable condition**, in relation to any insulation, is to be read in accordance with regulation 17

**zone 1**, **zone 2**, and **zone 3** are to be read in accordance with Appendix B (Climate Zones) of New Zealand Standard NZS 4218:2009 (Thermal Insulation – Housing and Small Buildings).

- (2) For the purposes of the definition of *R-value* in subclause (1), **thermal resistance** is resistance to heat flow. It is equal to the air temperature difference (°C) needed to produce unit heat flux (W/m<sup>2</sup>) through unit area (m<sup>2</sup>) under steady conditions. The units are °Cm<sup>2</sup>/W.

- (3) In these regulations, references to a smoke alarm or insulation being originally installed are, if the smoke alarm or insulation has been reinstalled on 1 or more occasions, references to the smoke alarm or insulation being reinstalled on that occasion or on the last of those occasions (as the case may be).

Regulation 3(1) **income-related rent tenancy** paragraph (a): amended, on 1 October 2019, by section 33 of the Kāinga Ora—Homes and Communities Act 2019 (2019 No 50).

Regulation 3(1) **income-related rent tenancy** paragraph (b): amended, on 1 October 2019, by section 33 of the Kāinga Ora—Homes and Communities Act 2019 (2019 No 50).

Regulation 3(1) **NZS 4246:2006**: revoked, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 4 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

Regulation 3(1) **NZS 4246:2016**: inserted, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 4 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

#### **4 Transitional, savings, and related provisions**

The transitional, savings, and related provisions set out in Schedule 1 have effect according to their terms.

### **Part 1 Smoke alarms**

#### Subpart 1—Landlords' responsibilities

#### **5 Smoke alarms to be qualifying smoke alarms and installed in certain locations: tenancies other than boarding house tenancies**

- (1) The requirements set out in subclauses (4), (6), and (8) are imposed on all landlords for the purposes of section 45(1)(ba) of the Act.
- (2) The requirements must be met as at the commencement of the tenancy and at all subsequent times during the tenancy.
- (3) The requirements are subject to the following:
- (a) regulation 8(2) (which relates to hard-wired smoke alarm systems):
  - (b) regulation 9(4) (which relates to tenants' responsibilities to replace worn-out smoke alarm batteries).
- (4) Every smoke alarm that is installed at the premises must be a qualifying smoke alarm.
- (5) Subclause (6) applies to every sleeping space at the premises.
- (6) There must be at least 1 qualifying smoke alarm installed—
- (a) in the sleeping space; or
  - (b) otherwise at the premises within 3 metres of the entrance (or main entrance) to the sleeping space.
- (7) Subclause (8) applies to every storey or level of the premises on which there is 1 or more habitable spaces.

- (8) There must be at least 1 qualifying smoke alarm installed on the storey or level in the habitable space or in at least 1 of the habitable spaces (as the case may be).
- (9) In this regulation, **sleeping space**—
  - (a) means a space that is for use, or that can otherwise reasonably be expected to be used, as a bedroom or other sleeping space; but
  - (b) does not include a space in a tent or similar type of shelter.

## **6 Smoke alarms to be qualifying smoke alarms and installed in certain locations: boarding house tenancies**

- (1) The requirements set out in subclauses (4), (5), and (7) are imposed on all landlords for the purposes of section 66I(1)(ba) of the Act.
- (2) The requirements must be met as at the commencement of the tenancy and at all subsequent times during the tenancy.
- (3) The requirements are subject to the following:
  - (a) regulation 8(2) (which relates to hard-wired smoke alarm systems):
  - (b) regulation 10(4) (which relates to tenants' responsibilities to replace worn-out smoke alarm batteries).
- (4) Every smoke alarm that is installed at the premises must be a qualifying smoke alarm.
- (5) There must be at least 1 qualifying smoke alarm installed—
  - (a) in the tenant's boarding room; or
  - (b) otherwise at the premises within 3 metres of the entrance (or main entrance) to the tenant's boarding room.
- (6) Subclause (7) applies to every storey or level of the premises on which there is 1 or more habitable spaces.
- (7) There must be at least 1 qualifying smoke alarm installed on the storey or level in the habitable space or in at least 1 of the habitable spaces (as the case may be).

## **7 Definition of qualifying smoke alarm**

- (1) A **qualifying smoke alarm** is a smoke alarm that meets the following requirements:
  - (a) the alarm must be fully operational and otherwise in full working order, with no faults, defects, or damage:
  - (b) the alarm must be installed at a location that accords with the manufacturer's instructions for the alarm:
  - (c) the alarm's recommended replacement date must not have passed:
  - (d) unless the alarm is a hard-wired alarm,—

- (i) the alarm's recommended replacement date must be displayed on the alarm;
  - (ii) the alarm must be a photoelectric alarm;
  - (iii) the manufacturer's instructions for the alarm must include a certification, or other statement, to the effect that the alarm has been manufactured in accordance with—
    - (A) AS 3786—1993; or
    - (B) an equivalent smoke alarm standard specified in the certification or other statement.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1)(a) (but without limiting its generality),—
- (a) if the alarm requires batteries for any purpose (including back-up batteries if the alarm is a hard-wired alarm), the alarm must contain all necessary batteries, which must all be compliant batteries; and
  - (b) if the alarm is a hard-wired alarm, the alarm must be connected to an electricity supply as necessary.

- (3) In this regulation,—

**AS 3786—1993** means Australian Standard AS 3786—1993 (Smoke alarms)

**equivalent smoke alarm standard** means a national or international standard covering the manufacture of smoke alarms that—

- (a) is equivalent, or substantially equivalent, to AS 3786—1993; or
- (b) is, overall, more stringent than AS 3786—1993

**recommended replacement date**, in relation to a smoke alarm, means the alarm's recommended replacement date (however described) as displayed on the alarm or as otherwise included in the manufacturer's instructions for the alarm.

## 8 Premises with hard-wired smoke alarm systems

- (1) This regulation applies if a system consisting of a hard-wired smoke alarm with connected sensors is installed at the premises.
- (2) If the system is a qualifying system, the following requirements may be met by the installation at a relevant location of a connected sensor instead of a qualifying smoke alarm:
  - (a) if the tenancy is not a boarding house tenancy,—
    - (i) the requirement set out in regulation 5(6) as it applies to a sleeping space;
    - (ii) the requirement set out in regulation 5(8) as it applies to a storey or level;
  - (b) if the tenancy is a boarding house tenancy,—
    - (i) the requirement set out in regulation 6(5):

- (ii) the requirement set out in regulation 6(7) as it applies to a storey or level.
- (3) The system is a **qualifying system** if—
  - (a) the system is fully operational and otherwise in full working order, with no faults, defects, or damage; and
  - (b) each component of the system is installed at a location that accords with the manufacturer’s instructions for the component; and
  - (c) none of the components of the system is due for replacement.
- (4) For the purposes of subclause (3)(a) (but without limiting its generality),—
  - (a) each component of the system must be connected to an electricity supply as necessary; and
  - (b) if any component of the system requires back-up batteries, the component must contain all necessary back-up batteries, which must accord with the manufacturer’s instructions for the component and must not be worn out.
- (5) For the purposes of subclause (3)(c), a component of the system is **due for replacement** if its recommended replacement date (however described), as displayed on the component or as otherwise included in the manufacturer’s instructions for the component, has passed.

## Subpart 2—Tenants’ responsibilities

### 9 Tenants to replace worn-out smoke alarm batteries: tenancies other than boarding house tenancies

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (3) is imposed on all tenants for the purposes of section 40(1)(ca) of the Act.
- (2) The requirement applies to a smoke alarm that is installed at the premises if—
  - (a) the alarm requires batteries for any purpose and is not a hard-wired alarm; and
  - (b) the alarm is a qualifying smoke alarm (with all necessary compliant batteries in accordance with regulation 7(2)(a))—
    - (i) at the commencement of the tenancy, if the alarm is installed as at the commencement of the tenancy; or
    - (ii) upon the completion of the original installation of the alarm, if that occurs after the commencement of the tenancy.
- (3) While the smoke alarm remains installed at the premises during the tenancy, the tenant must replace, with a compliant battery, any battery contained in the alarm that becomes worn out, but only if the alarm—
  - (a) would be a qualifying smoke alarm but for the battery being worn out; and



- (b) is designed to permit the replacement of the battery.
- (4) Where the tenant is required to replace a worn-out battery by subclause (3), the landlord is not in breach of regulation 5(4), (6), or (8) just because the battery is worn out or has not been replaced with a compliant battery.
- (5) Except as set out in subclause (4), nothing in this regulation affects the requirements set out in regulation 5(4), (6), and (8).

**10 Tenants to replace worn-out smoke alarm batteries: boarding house tenancies**

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (3) is imposed on all tenants for the purposes of section 66K(1)(ca) of the Act.
- (2) The requirement applies to a smoke alarm that is installed in the tenant's boarding room if—
  - (a) the alarm requires batteries for any purpose and is not a hard-wired alarm; and
  - (b) the alarm is a qualifying smoke alarm (with all necessary compliant batteries in accordance with regulation 7(2)(a))—
    - (i) at the commencement of the tenancy, if the alarm is installed as at the commencement of the tenancy; or
    - (ii) upon the completion of the original installation of the alarm, if that occurs after the commencement of the tenancy.
- (3) While the smoke alarm remains installed in the tenant's boarding room during the tenancy, the tenant must replace, with a compliant battery, any battery contained in the alarm that becomes worn out, but only if the alarm—
  - (a) would be a qualifying smoke alarm but for the battery being worn out; and
  - (b) is designed to permit the replacement of the battery.
- (4) Where the tenant is required to replace a worn-out battery by subclause (3), the landlord is not in breach of regulation 6(4), (5), or (7) just because the battery is worn out or has not been replaced with a compliant battery.
- (5) Except as set out in subclause (4), nothing in this regulation affects the requirements set out in regulation 6(4), (5), and (7).

## Part 2

### Insulation

#### Subpart 1AA—Application of Part 2

Subpart 1AA: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 42 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

#### 10A Part 2 ceases to apply when healthy homes standards apply

- (1) Part 2 does not apply in relation to a tenancy of a type listed in the following table on and after the disapplication day specified in the table for that type of tenancy.

Type of tenancy	Disapplication day*
Boarding house tenancy (but not HNZ housing tenancy or community housing tenancy)	1 July 2021
HNZ housing tenancy	1 July 2023
Community housing tenancy	1 July 2023
General tenancy	
(a) if DCT before 1 July 2021	
(i) if renewed on or after 1 July 2021 but before 2 April 2024	90th day after first renewal date after 1 July 2021
(ii) otherwise	1 July 2024
(b) if DCT on or after 1 July 2021 but before 2 April 2024	90th day after DCT
(c) if DCT on or after 2 April 2024	1 July 2024

\*The disapplication day for each type of tenancy is the same as the HH start day for that type of tenancy under clause 2 of Schedule 1 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019.

- (2) In this regulation,—

**community housing tenancy** means a residential tenancy of premises that are community housing as defined in section 2(1) of the Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Act 1992

**DCT** means the date of commencement of the tenancy

**general tenancy** means a residential tenancy that is not a boarding house tenancy, HNZ housing tenancy, or community housing tenancy

**HNZ housing tenancy** means a residential tenancy of premises that are HNZ housing as defined in section 2(1) of the Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Act 1992.

Regulation 10A: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 42 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

## Subpart 1—Ceiling and underfloor insulation required

### *Ceiling insulation*

#### **11 Ceiling insulation required**

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (3) is imposed on all landlords for the purposes of sections 45(1)(bb) and 66I(1)(bb) of the Act.
- (2) The requirement must be met as at the commencement of the tenancy and at all subsequent times during the tenancy.
- (3) The ceilings of the habitable spaces at the premises must be fully covered by ceiling insulation that is qualifying ceiling insulation (*see* regulations 12 and 13).
- (4) However, subclause (3) does not require the ceiling of a habitable space to be covered by ceiling insulation so far as—
  - (a) another habitable space (whether or not part of the premises) is immediately above the ceiling; or
  - (b) clearances are reasonably required around any other item that is installed in or above the ceiling.
- (5) This regulation is subject to regulations 18 to 21 (exceptions).

#### **12 Qualifying ceiling insulation: general rule**

- (1) For the purposes of regulation 11(3), the ceiling insulation is **qualifying ceiling insulation** if,—
  - (a) when the insulation was originally installed, the insulation, as a product, had the following *R*-value (at least):
    - (i) 2.9, if the premises are located in zone 1 or zone 2;
    - (ii) 3.3, if the premises are located in zone 3; and
  - (b) upon the completion of the original installation of the insulation, if that occurred on or after 1 July 2016, the original installation accorded with NZS 4246:2016 (so far as that standard was relevant to the original installation); and
  - (c) the insulation is currently in a reasonable condition (or better).
- (2) Subclause (3) applies for the purposes of subclause (1)(a) if—
  - (a) the ceiling insulation was originally installed as a new product; and
  - (b) the manufacturer's instructions for the insulation certify, or otherwise state, the *R*-value of the insulation as a product.
- (3) The *R*-value of the ceiling insulation, as a product, when it was originally installed is taken to be the *R*-value as certified, or otherwise stated, in the manufacturer's instructions.

- (4) If different parts of the ceiling insulation were originally installed at different times, subclause (1)(a) and (b) is applied separately to each different part.
- (5) If, in any location, the ceiling insulation consists of 1 product with 1 or more other products installed on top of it, compliance with subclause (1)(a) in respect of that location is determined by using the combined *R*-values of the products calculated by—
  - (a) taking the *R*-value of each product when it was originally installed; and
  - (b) adding those *R*-values together.
- (6) This regulation is subject to regulation 13.

Regulation 12(1)(b): amended, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 5 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

### **13 Qualifying ceiling insulation: special rules for ceiling insulation originally installed before 1 July 2016**

- (1) This regulation applies for the purposes of regulation 11(3), despite regulation 12.
- (2) The ceiling insulation is **qualifying ceiling insulation** if—
  - (a) the whole of the insulation was originally installed before 1 July 2016; and
  - (b) the insulation, or each part of the insulation, accords with subclause (4); and
  - (c) the insulation has not been the subject of any major repairs on or after 1 July 2016; and
  - (d) the insulation is currently in a reasonable condition (or better).
- (3) The ceiling insulation is **qualifying ceiling insulation** if—
  - (a) a part of the insulation was originally installed before 1 July 2016; and
  - (b) the part accords with subclause (4); and
  - (c) the part has not been the subject of any major repairs on or after 1 July 2016; and
  - (d) the part is currently in a reasonable condition (or better); and
  - (e) the requirements set out in regulation 12(1)(a) to (c) are met in respect of the rest of the insulation.
- (4) The ceiling insulation, or a part of it, accords with this subclause if, upon the completion of the original installation of the insulation or part, the insulation or part, as installed, achieved (at least) the *R*-value of—
  - (a) 1.9; or
  - (b) 1.5, if the ceiling is in a building of high thermal mass construction (that is, external wall construction with an average area density of at least 215

kilograms per square metre of wall material (for example, masonry construction)).

- (5) For the purposes of subclauses (2)(c) and (3)(c), repairs to the insulation, or the part, are **major** if,—
- (a) before the repairs, the insulation or part was not in a reasonable condition (or better); and
  - (b) as a result of the repairs, the insulation or part is made to be in a reasonable condition (or better).

#### *Underfloor insulation*

#### **14 Underfloor insulation required**

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (3) is imposed on all landlords for the purposes of sections 45(1)(bb) and 66I(1)(bb) of the Act.
- (2) The requirement must be met as at the commencement of the tenancy and at all subsequent times during the tenancy.
- (3) The floors of the habitable spaces at the premises, so far as they are suspended floors, must be fully covered by underfloor insulation that is qualifying underfloor insulation (*see* regulations 15 and 16).
- (4) However, subclause (3) does not require the floor of a habitable space to be covered by underfloor insulation so far as—
  - (a) another habitable space (whether or not part of the premises) is immediately below the floor; or
  - (b) clearances are reasonably required around any other item that is installed in or under the floor.
- (5) This regulation is subject to regulations 18 to 21 (exceptions).

#### **15 Qualifying underfloor insulation: general rule**

- (1) For the purposes of regulation 14(3), the underfloor insulation is **qualifying underfloor insulation** if,—
  - (a) when the insulation was originally installed, the insulation, as a product, had the *R*-value of 1.3 (at least); and
  - (b) upon the completion of the original installation of the insulation, if that occurred on or after 1 July 2016, the original installation accorded with NZS 4246:2016 (so far as that standard was relevant to the original installation); and
  - (c) the insulation is currently in a reasonable condition (or better).
- (2) Subclause (3) applies for the purposes of subclause (1)(a) if—
  - (a) the underfloor insulation was originally installed as a new product; and

- (b) the manufacturer's instructions for the insulation certify, or otherwise state, the *R*-value of the insulation as a product.
- (3) The *R*-value of the underfloor insulation, as a product, when it was originally installed is taken to be the *R*-value as certified, or otherwise stated, in the manufacturer's instructions.
- (4) If different parts of the underfloor insulation were originally installed at different times, subclause (1)(a) and (b) is applied separately to each different part.
- (5) If, in any location, the underfloor insulation consists of 1 product with 1 or more other products installed on top of it, compliance with subclause (1)(a) in respect of that location is determined by using the combined *R*-values of the products calculated by—
  - (a) taking the *R*-value of each product when it was originally installed; and
  - (b) adding those *R*-values together.
- (6) This regulation is subject to regulation 16.

Regulation 15(1)(b): amended, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 6 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

#### **16 Qualifying underfloor insulation: special rules for underfloor insulation originally installed before 1 July 2016**

- (1) This regulation applies for the purposes of regulation 14(3), despite regulation 15.
- (2) The underfloor insulation is **qualifying underfloor insulation** if—
  - (a) the whole of the insulation was originally installed before 1 July 2016; and
  - (b) the insulation, or each part of the insulation, accords with subclause (4); and
  - (c) the insulation has not been the subject of any major repairs on or after 1 July 2016; and
  - (d) the insulation is currently in a reasonable condition (or better).
- (3) The underfloor insulation is **qualifying underfloor insulation** if—
  - (a) a part of the insulation was originally installed before 1 July 2016; and
  - (b) the part accords with subclause (4); and
  - (c) the part has not been the subject of any major repairs on or after 1 July 2016; and
  - (d) the part is currently in a reasonable condition (or better); and
  - (e) the requirements set out in regulation 15(1)(a) to (c) are met in respect of the rest of the insulation.

- (4) The underfloor insulation, or a part of it, accords with this subclause if, upon the completion of the original installation of the insulation or part, the insulation or part, as installed, achieved the *R*-value of 0.9 (at least).
- (5) For the purposes of subclauses (2)(c) and (3)(c), repairs to the insulation, or the part, are **major** if,—
  - (a) before the repairs, the insulation or part was not in a reasonable condition (or better); and
  - (b) as a result of the repairs, the insulation or part is made to be in a reasonable condition (or better).

#### *Reasonable condition*

### **17 Determining whether insulation is in reasonable condition**

- (1) For the purposes of these regulations, the following matters must be taken into account in determining whether any insulation is in a **reasonable condition** (or better):
  - (a) the extent to which the performance of the insulation is compromised by any aspect of the insulation's condition:
  - (b) the extent of any dampness, damage, degradation, or displacement:
  - (c) the condition of any materials or other items that are ancillary to the installation of the insulation (for example, strapping or staples).
- (2) Subclause (1) is not an exhaustive statement of the matters that may be taken into account.

#### *Exceptions*

### **18 Not reasonably practicable to install insulation**

- (1) This regulation applies if—
  - (a) regulation 11(3) or 14(3) requires insulation to be installed at a location; and
  - (b) as at the commencement of the tenancy, because of the way in which the premises have been designed or built,—
    - (i) an experienced professional installer of insulation cannot access the location to install the insulation without—
      - (A) the carrying out of substantial building work; or
      - (B) the causing of substantial damage to the premises; or
    - (ii) an experienced professional installer of insulation cannot install the insulation at the location without creating risks to the health or safety of any person that are greater than the risks that are normally acceptable when insulation is being installed by an experienced professional installer of insulation; or

- (iii) it is otherwise not reasonably practicable for an experienced professional installer of insulation to install the insulation at the location.
- (2) The landlord is excepted from the requirement set out in regulation 11(3) or 14(3) in respect of the location.
- (3) The exception given by subclause (2) expires if the circumstances referred to in subclause (1)(b)(i) to (iii) cease (because, for example, any relevant substantial building work is carried out), in which event the insulation must be installed as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (4) In this regulation, **premises** includes a building in which the premises are located, if the premises do not include the whole building.

### **19 Compliance with applicable legal requirements relating to thermal insulation**

- (1) This regulation applies as follows:
  - (a) for the purposes of regulation 11(3), if subclause (2) applies to the ceiling insulation or a part of it:
  - (b) for the purposes of regulation 14(3), if subclause (2) applies to the underfloor insulation or a part of it.
- (2) This subclause applies to any insulation if,—
  - (a) when the insulation was originally installed, requirements relating to thermal insulation imposed by or under an enactment or bylaw were applicable to the premises; and
  - (b) the landlord has, in the landlord's possession, a relevant document that includes a certification, or other statement, to the effect that the premises, with the insulation installed, complied with those requirements.
- (3) If the insulation is the ceiling insulation or a part of it, the landlord is excepted from regulations 12(1)(a) and (b) and 13(2)(b) and (3)(b) in respect of the ceiling insulation or part (as the case may be).
- (4) If the insulation is the underfloor insulation or a part of it, the landlord is excepted from regulations 15(1)(a) and (b) and 16(2)(b) and (3)(b) in respect of the underfloor insulation or part (as the case may be).
- (5) Subclause (6) applies if the landlord—
  - (a) receives a reasonable request from the tenant to provide the tenant with reasonable evidence of the relevant document referred to in subclause (2); or
  - (b) receives a reasonable request from the chief executive, acting for the purposes of the chief executive's functions or powers under the Act, to provide the chief executive with reasonable evidence of the relevant document referred to in subclause (2); or



- (c) is requested or required by the Tribunal, in the course of any proceedings before the Tribunal relating to the tenancy, to provide reasonable evidence of the relevant document referred to in subclause (2).
- (6) The exception given by subclause (3) or (4) expires as follows:
- (a) the exception expires if the landlord fails to meet a request referred to in subclause (5)(a) or (b) within 10 working days after the day on which the request is received:
  - (b) the exception expires if the landlord fails to meet a request or requirement referred to in subclause (5)(c) within the period allowed by the Tribunal.
- (7) In this regulation,—
- premises** includes a building in which the premises are located, if the premises do not include the whole building
- relevant document** means a certificate or any other document issued under an enactment or bylaw by a governmental authority or any other person (for example, a code compliance certificate issued under section 95 of the Building Act 2004 or section 43 of the Building Act 1991).
- 20 Landlord intends to demolish or substantially rebuild premises within 12 months**
- (1) The landlord is excepted from the requirements set out in regulations 11(3) and 14(3) if,—
- (a) as at the commencement of the tenancy, the landlord intends to demolish or rebuild the premises, or a substantial part of the premises, within the relevant 12-month period; and
  - (b) before the commencement of the tenancy, the landlord applied for any necessary resource consent or building consent; and
  - (c) the landlord's application for any necessary resource consent or building consent was not refused or withdrawn before the commencement of the tenancy.
- (2) The exception given by subclause (1) expires—
- (a) at the close of the relevant 12-month period; or
  - (b) if any necessary resource consent or building consent lapses or is otherwise terminated before the close of the relevant 12-month period, when the consent lapses or is otherwise terminated.
- (3) Subclause (4) applies if the landlord—
- (a) receives a reasonable request from the tenant to provide the tenant with reasonable evidence of the landlord's application for any necessary resource consent or building consent; or

- (b) receives a reasonable request from the chief executive, acting for the purposes of the chief executive's functions or powers under the Act, to provide the chief executive with reasonable evidence of the landlord's application for any necessary resource consent or building consent; or
  - (c) is requested or required by the Tribunal, in the course of any proceedings before the Tribunal relating to the tenancy, to provide reasonable evidence of the landlord's application for any necessary resource consent or building consent.
- (4) The exception given by subclause (1) expires as follows:
- (a) the exception expires if the landlord fails to meet a request referred to in subclause (3)(a) or (b) within 10 working days after the day on which the request is received;
  - (b) the exception expires if the landlord fails to meet a request or requirement referred to in subclause (3)(c) within the period allowed by the Tribunal.
- (5) In this regulation,—
- building consent** has the meaning given in section 7 of the Building Act 2004
- relevant 12-month period** means the period of 12 months beginning with the date of commencement of the tenancy
- resource consent** has the meaning given in section 2(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## 21 Tenant is former owner of premises

- (1) This regulation applies if—
- (a) a person (the **new owner**) acquires another person's (the **former owner**) interest in any premises; and
  - (b) the new owner grants the former owner a tenancy in respect of the premises that commences immediately after the acquisition.
- (2) The new owner, as the landlord, is excepted from the requirements set out in regulations 11(3) and 14(3).
- (3) The exception given by subclause (2) expires at the close of the period of 12 months beginning with the date of commencement of the tenancy.

Regulation 21(1)(a): replaced, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 43(1) of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

Regulation 21(1)(b): amended, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 43(2) of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

## Subpart 2—Other requirements

### **22 Insulation work during tenancy to be carried out in accordance with NZS 4246:2016**

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (2) is imposed on all landlords for the purposes of sections 45(1)(bb) and 66I(1)(bb) of the Act.
- (2) Any work in respect of insulation that is carried out during the tenancy in connection with any ceilings or suspended floors that are at the premises must be carried out in accordance with NZS 4246:2016 (so far as that standard is relevant to the work).

Regulation 22 heading: amended, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 7(1) of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

Regulation 22(1): amended, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 25.

Regulation 22(2): amended, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 7(2) of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

### **23 Insulation originally installed during tenancy to have minimum *R*-values**

*[Revoked]*

Regulation 23: revoked, on 1 October 2019, by regulation 27.

### **24 Prohibition of electrically conductive insulation**

- (1) The requirement set out in subclause (2) is imposed on all landlords for the purposes of sections 45(1)(bb) and 66I(1)(bb) of the Act.
- (2) Electrically conductive insulation is prohibited as follows.
- (3) Electrically conductive insulation must not be installed in connection with any ceiling or suspended floor that is at the premises.
- (4) The prohibition does not apply to electrically conductive insulation that is originally installed before the commencement of the tenancy.

Regulation 24(1): amended, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 28.

## Subpart 3—Amendments to subpart 2

*[Revoked]*

Subpart 3: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

### **25 Regulation 22 amended**

*[Revoked]*

Regulation 25: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

### **26 Regulation 23 amended**

*[Revoked]*

Regulation 26: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

**27 Regulation 23 revoked***[Revoked]*

Regulation 27: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

**28 Regulation 24 amended***[Revoked]*

Regulation 28: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

**29 Subpart revoked***[Revoked]*

Regulation 29: revoked, on 2 October 2019, by regulation 29.

**Subpart 4—Amendments relating to Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019**

Subpart 4: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

**30 Effective date**

- (1) Regulations 31, 32, and 34 take effect on 2 July 2024.
- (2) Regulation 33 takes effect immediately after regulation 32.

Regulation 30: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

**31 Regulation 1 amended (Title)**

In regulation 1, delete “and Insulation”.

Regulation 31: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

**32 Regulation 3 amended (Interpretation)**

- (1) In regulation 3(1), revoke the definitions of **income-related rent tenancy**, **NZS 4246:2016**, **R-value**, **reasonable condition**, and **zone 1**, **zone 2**, and **zone 3**.
- (2) Revoke regulation 3(2).
- (3) In regulation 3(3), delete “or insulation” in each place.

Regulation 32: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

**33 Part 2 revoked**

Revoke Part 2.

Regulation 33: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

**34 Schedule 1 amended**

In Schedule 1, after clause 10, insert:

### **Part 3**

## **Provision relating to Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019**

### **11 References to previous Title**

On and after 2 July 2024, every reference in any enactment and in any other document to the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Regulations 2016 must, unless the context otherwise provides, be read as a reference to the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms) Regulations 2016.

Regulation 34: inserted, on 1 July 2019, by regulation 44 of the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88).

## Schedule 1

### Transitional, savings, and related provisions

r 4

#### Part 1

#### Provisions relating to these regulations as made

##### *General*

#### 1 Existing tenancies

A provision of these regulations applies to a tenancy whether the tenancy commences before, on, or after the date on which the provision comes into force.

##### *Smoke alarms*

#### 2 Paragraph (b) of definition of compliant in regulation 3 and regulation 7(1)(d) not to apply to smoke alarms originally installed before 1 July 2016

The following provisions do not apply to a smoke alarm that is originally installed at the premises before 1 July 2016:

- (a) paragraph (b) of the definition of compliant in regulation 3:
- (b) regulation 7(1)(d).

#### 3 Modification of regulations 5(2), 6(2), 9(2), and 10(2) for tenancies commencing before 1 July 2016

In relation to a tenancy that commences before 1 July 2016, in regulations 5(2), 6(2), 9(2), and 10(2), references to the commencement of the tenancy are to be read as references to the beginning of 1 July 2016.

##### *Insulation*

#### 4 Modification of regulations 11(2), 14(2), 18(1), and 20(1) for income-related rent tenancies commencing before 1 July 2019

In relation to an income-related rent tenancy that commences before 1 July 2019, in regulations 11(2), 14(2), 18(1), and 20(1), references to the commencement of the tenancy are to be read as references to the following:

- (a) the beginning of 1 July 2016, if the tenancy commences before 1 July 2016:
- (b) the beginning of the 90th day after the date of commencement of the tenancy, if the tenancy commences on or after 1 July 2016.

**5 Modification of regulations 11(2), 14(2), 18(1), and 20(1) for tenancies, other than income-related rent tenancies, commencing before 1 July 2019**

In relation to a tenancy, other than an income-related rent tenancy, that commences before 1 July 2019, in regulations 11(2), 14(2), 18(1), and 20(1), references to the commencement of the tenancy are to be read as references to the beginning of 1 July 2019.

**6 Modification of regulations 20(5) and 21(3) for income-related rent tenancies commencing before 1 July 2019**

In relation to an income-related rent tenancy that commences before 1 July 2019, in regulations 20(5) and 21(3), references to the date of commencement of the tenancy are to be read as references to the following:

- (a) 1 July 2016, if the tenancy commences before 1 July 2016:
- (b) the 90th day after the date of commencement of the tenancy, if the tenancy commences on or after 1 July 2016.

**7 Modification of regulations 20(5) and 21(3) for tenancies, other than income-related rent tenancies, commencing before 1 July 2019**

In relation to a tenancy, other than an income-related rent tenancy, that commences before 1 July 2019, in regulations 20(5) and 21(3), references to the date of commencement of the tenancy are to be read as references to 1 July 2019.

**8 Modification of regulation 24(4) for tenancies commencing before 1 July 2016**

In relation to a tenancy that commences before 1 July 2016, in regulation 24(4), the reference to the commencement of the tenancy is to be read as a reference to the beginning of 1 July 2016.

**Part 2**

**Provisions relating to Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016**

Schedule 1 Part 2: inserted, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 8 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

**9 Existing tenancies**

- (1) A provision of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 applies to a tenancy whether the tenancy commences before, on, or after 1 October 2016.
- (2) This clause is subject to clause 10.

Schedule 1 clause 9: inserted, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 8 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

**10 Regulations 5 and 6 of Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 not to apply to insulation installed before 1 October 2016**

Regulations 5 and 6 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 do not apply to insulation installed before 1 October 2016.

Schedule 1 clause 10: inserted, on 1 October 2016, by regulation 8 of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219).

Michael Webster,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.  
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 9 June 2016.



## **Reprints notes**

### **1    *General***

This is a reprint of the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Regulations 2016 that incorporates all the amendments to those regulations as at the date of the last amendment to them.

### **2    *Legal status***

Reprints are presumed to correctly state, as at the date of the reprint, the law enacted by the principal enactment and by any amendments to that enactment. Section 18 of the Legislation Act 2012 provides that this reprint, published in electronic form, has the status of an official version under section 17 of that Act. A printed version of the reprint produced directly from this official electronic version also has official status.

### **3    *Editorial and format changes***

Editorial and format changes to reprints are made using the powers under sections 24 to 26 of the Legislation Act 2012. See also <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/editorial-conventions/>.

### **4    *Amendments incorporated in this reprint***

Kāinga Ora—Homes and Communities Act 2019 (2019 No 50): section 33

Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 (LI 2019/88): Part 4

Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Amendment Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/219)

Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Regulations 2016 (LI 2016/128): Part 2 sub-part 3