



Tom Kearney
Executive Director, Policy and Programs
Building Commission NSW

FPA Australia, AIRAH and AMCA Australia write to express our concern over the recent decision to defer vital fire safety measures that were due to commence on 13 February, 2025. This includes the mandatory requirement to comply with AS 1851-2012 *Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*, and the requirements that a fire safety certificate can only be issued if an assessment has been done by an accredited practitioner (fire safety).

AS 1851-2012 is a nationally recognised standard that establishes best-practice guidelines for the maintenance of fire protection systems and equipment. By delaying its mandatory implementation, the government delays the identified improvements in public and community fire safety.

Deferring the Fire Systems Certifier (FSC) role also delays achieving realisable improvements in the integrity of fire system inspections and certifications. The role ensures that highly skilled, accredited professionals verify compliance, reducing risks of poor workmanship, substandard system performance, and preventable tragedies.

The deferral of these vital safety measures delays the reduction in community risks in terms of improved life safety, property damage, and the escalation of minor issues into significant, costly, and potentially dangerous hazards.

According to the communications sent to stakeholders, Building Commission NSW received feedback that the fire protection industry and strata communities need more time to adapt to the changes.

As leading industry bodies in the fire protection industry, we have consistently indicated our support for the reforms and the NSW Government's mandated timing. We have also been committed to helping members understand and prepare for the changes, through training, communications and webinars. In these interactions with the people who do the work, we have seen that large parts of the fire protection industry are prepared for the reforms – and are strongly in favour of them. Moreover, deferring the changes so close to the start date creates avoidable confusion, and risks eroding confidence in the regulations and the regulator.

FPA Australia, AIRAH and AMCA Australia understand the importance of the changes and will continue to strongly encourage and assist building owners and fire safety practitioners to begin working towards compliance well ahead of the revised deadlines. With the delay now in place, our organisations seek Building Commission NSW's commitment to work together to maximise the implementation's success when the new regulatory deadline arrives. We have received invitations to the Fire Safety Industry Reference Group meeting on 24 February. We look forward to collaborating closely with Building Commission NSW to assist in developing



supporting advisory structures, processes, resources, regulatory clarifications and joint awareness and professional development sessions as soon as possible. This would enable the readiness of all structures within the building environment responsible for successfully implementing regulations.

Our organisations welcome your commitment in ensuring proper and accurate communication with our members to reinforce this message, and the opportunity to discuss with you a co-ordinated, aligned approach.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Collie".

John Collie
CEO FPA AUSTRALIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sami Zheng".

Sami Zheng
CEO AIRAH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Williams".

Scott Williams
CEO AMCA
