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### CERTIFICATION

Fire and Security Consulting Services (FSCS) is frequently asked about the requirements for Building Certification when an Alternative Solution has been prepared for the building. The following Certification is required under the Building Act 1975 and the Building Regulation 2006:-

#### **FORM 15 - Compliance Certificate for building Design or Specification**

Section 46 of the Building Regulation, reproduced below requires all persons providing a Design or Specification to provide a "Form 15" certifying that the design meets the relevant Codes and Standards.

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| <p><b>46 Certificate about building design or specification</b></p> <p>(1) A competent person (design/specification) may give the building certifier a certificate that a building design or specification will, if installed or carried out under the certificate, comply with the building assessment provisions.</p> <p>(2) The certificate must comply with section 48.</p>   |
| <p><b>48 Content requirements for certificates</b></p> <p>A certificate by a competent person must—</p> <p>(a) be in the approved form; and</p> <p>(b) be signed by the competent person; and</p> <p>(c) state in detail—</p> <p>(i) the basis for giving the certificate; and</p> <p>(ii) the extent to which the person has relied on tests, specifications, rules, standards, codes of practice or other publications.</p> |

FSCS believes that an Alternative Solution in the form of the Fire Engineering Report (FER) is a design and specification document and will always provide a Form 15 with the completed Report.

#### **FORM 16 - Inspection Certificate / Aspect Certificate / QBSA Licensee Aspect Certificate**

Section 48 of the Building Regulation, reproduced below requires all persons constructing (or installing) certain **required** building elements and systems to provide a "Form 16" certifying that the construction meets the relevant Codes and Standards.

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| <p><b>7 Aspect inspection certificate</b></p> <p>(1) A competent person (inspections) for assessable building work may give the building certifier a certificate that a stated aspect of the work complies with the building development approval.</p> <p>(2) The certificate must comply with section 48.</p>  |
| <p><b>48 Content requirements for certificates</b></p> <p>A certificate by a competent person must—</p> <p>(a) be in the approved form; and</p> <p>(b) be signed by the competent person; and</p> <p>(c) state in detail—</p> <p>(i) the basis for giving the certificate; and</p> <p>(ii) the extent to which the person has relied on tests, specifications, rules, standards, codes of practice or other publications.</p> |

FSCS is frequently requested (required) by either the Certifier or QFRS Building Approval Officer (BAO) to provide a Form 16 for the building.

It must be understood that whilst FSCS provides the FER and a Form 15 pertaining to that Report, it has no control over the adequacy of the execution of the requirements of that Report.

Should FSCS be required to provide a Form 16 for the building, the following is a minimum requirement that FSCS must be commissioned, and remunerated to do.

1. Be advised at the commencement of the project that a Form 16 is required.
2. Be provided with all **relevant** Form 15s from designers.
3. Be advised when **relevant** structural or passive elements required in the FER are being constructed and are due for "building in" so that inspection can take place.
4. In lieu of item 3 above, FSCS is prepared to accept digital photographs (dated) of the subject elements referenced on accompanying drawings.
5. Be provided with all **relevant Form** 16s from constructors, suppliers and installers. See Note 1 below.
6. Attend the acceptance testing with QFRS. Note that at this time any systems referenced as being "Essential Fire Services" required to make the conclusions in the FER valid must be tested by the installers and demonstrated to function as intended. Where systems are required to be interfaced (such as alarms from sprinkler system to the Fire Indicator panel), such interfaces are required to be functional.

Note that **relevant** means all building elements and systems that, in the FER, are referenced as being "Essential Fire Services" required to make the conclusions in the FER valid.

Subsequent to the above and after successful testing of the systems, FSCS will provide a Form 16 stating that "Based on the information received and inspections (if any) and witnessing of tests, that the building aspects comply with the requirements of the FER". The Form 16 will list all referenced systems and documentation used in the certificate.

#### **Note 1**

In addition to a Form 16, installers of certain building elements, systems and equipment are also required to provide certification in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards as below:-

- For sprinkler systems, provision of all the documents referenced in AS2118.10. – "Approval Documentation". This includes Appendix A - "Standard System Completion Certificate".
- For fire hydrant systems - provision of all the documents referenced in AS2419.1 Section 10.7 – "Recording of Commissioning (Verification) Tests".
- For fire hose reels – provision of all the documents referenced in AS2441 Section 13 "Record of Installation".
- For portable fire extinguishers, provision of all the documents referenced in AS2444 Section 3.7 and AS1851.
- For fire pumps– provision of all the documents referenced in AS2941 – Appendix A "Commissioning Tests" and in particular sections 13.4 and 14. "Reporting of Results".
- For fire detection systems – provision of all the documents referenced in AS1670.1 – Appendix E – "Commissioning Test Report" and Appendix F – "Standard Form of Installer's Statement for Fire Alarm System".
- For fire and smoke control in multi-compartment buildings - – provision of all the documents referenced in AS1668.1 Appendix F – "Smoke Control System Commissioning Tests".
- For emergency lighting and EXIT signs, – provision of all the documents referenced in AS2293.1 Section 8.2 – "Operating and Maintenance Manual".
- For fire doors– provision of all the documents referenced in AS1905.1 Section 6.3.3 "Records and Required Information".
- For fire rated roller shutters – provision of all the documents referenced in AS1905.2 Section 7 "Evidence".
- For service penetrations (fire collars, control joints and the like) – provision of all the documents referenced in AS4072.1 Appendix B "Documentation".
- For fire dampers – provision of all the documents referenced in AS1682.2 "Commissioning" and a list of the dampers, type, rating and location.

I trust that the above will allow you to adequately plan for the Certification.

**Rick Foster – Principal, Fire and Security Consulting Services**