



GE
Security

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GE Security finalises compliance for Ziton fire protection products

Background

Initially developed by Ziton Australia, the AS2 Fire Detection Panel and Ziton Emergency Warning and Intercommunication System (EWIS) quickly became two of the fire industries' most popular and entrenched products. In October 2003, Ziton was acquired by SPX Corp. who already owned Edwards System Technology, a company with a strong heritage in fire alarms dating back to 1872.

In March 2005, these SPX companies became a part of GE Security, a world-leading manufacturer and innovator with operations in more than 35 countries generating \$1.8 billion in annual sales. The result of more than US\$4 billion in acquisitions of "best-of breed" technology companies, GE Security provides fire detection, access control, intrusion and video surveillance solutions that protect people and property in a broad range of demanding applications and industries.

Ziton products – fully compliant with local requirements

Soon after the acquisition of SPX, GE discovered that some Ziton products did not comply with applicable Australian Standards. Whilst none of the compliance issues revolved around life safety requirements (they involved small technical deviations from specific details of the standards) GE took these product safety obligations seriously and moved quickly to address all compliance issues.

To minimise any potential impact to customers and the public, GE stopped the general shipment of all Ziton products, re-engaging CSIRO to undertake compliance re-assessments of all Ziton products.

GE has since achieved compliance for the full range of Ziton products, recommencing delivery of fully compliant systems. GE also developed upgrade kits for affected products and implemented a thorough communication and upgrade process to bring installed non-compliant systems into compliance.

Ziton fire products continue to be sold into new requirements in Australia and for the expansion of existing systems. The products are fully supported by GE Security and its network of channel partners, guaranteeing availability of new panels, spare parts, maintenance and upgrade capability now and into the future.

Ziton AS2 Fire Panel compliance upgrade kits

GE recommenced the shipment of Ziton AS2 Fire Panels that were compliant with Australian Standard AS4428.1 and implemented a process to ensure that all installed non-compliant systems were upgraded to achieve compliance.

- For non-compliant Ziton products purchased between 17 October 2003 and February 2006, GE has made every effort to supply and install the appropriate compliance upgrade kits free-of-



charge through our network of qualified installers as these products are still within their respective warranty periods.

- For non-compliant Ziton products purchased on or before 17 October 2003, GE has made available the appropriate compliance upgrade kits at a discounted price.

What issues do Ziton AS2 upgrade kits address?

Some previously installed Ziton Fire Indicator Panels and field devices may need to be modified with upgrade kits or replacement parts to bring them into compliance, as follows:

- **AS2 panels** purchased between 17 October 2003 and February 2006 must be fitted with upgrade kits in order to comply with AS/NZS CISPR 11 and AS4428.1. GE will supply and install the appropriate compliance upgrade kits free-of-charge through our network of qualified installers.
- **AS2 panels** purchased on or before 17 October 2003 may need to be fitted with upgrade kits in order to comply with AS/NZS CISPR 11 and AS4428.1. The upgrade is *recommended* for earlier AS1603.4 models (we consider these panels to be technically compliant, but recommend that they be upgraded to the current AS4428 standard), and is *mandatory* for systems that use a combination of earlier AS1603.4 models and recent AS4428 models. GE has been supplying the appropriate compliance upgrade kits at a discounted price.

The AS3 Fire Panel was sold for a limited time into smaller system applications. However, some technical compliance issues and low sales volumes resulted in the product being removed from the market in February 2006.

AS3 panels purchased between 17 October 2003 and February 2006 are being replaced with new AS2 or EST3 panels. GE will supply and install replacement panels free-of-charge through our network of qualified installers. AS3 panels purchased on or before 17 October 2003 are being replaced with new AS2 or EST3 panels, which GE is making available at a discounted price.

Do Ziton EWIS systems comply?

Ziton EWIS panels are installed throughout Australia and New Zealand in various forms, sizes and capacities. The original Ziton EWIS was affected by some compliance issues, however, GE has contacted all owners of installed systems with the details of changes, if any, required to bring their systems into compliance and made available upgrade kits as required.

New EWIS systems and peripherals fully comply with Australian Standard AS2220.1 and are ActivFire® listed. The new GE EWIS is also designed and manufactured to comply with the installation requirements of AS1670.

EST3 – Globally proven, locally supported

At the core of GE's extensive global fire solution portfolio is the EST3 platform - a modular life safety system uniquely designed to meet the needs of any size facility from a single panel system to a multi-panel network.

The EST3 platform is a globally proven product deployed in some of the world's highest profile facilities brought to market via a network of highly competent locally situated Strategic Partners, providing a



choice of trained and committed system installers with the skills and knowledge to professionally deploy and maintain GE fire & life safety systems now and into the future.

EST3 Platform

This powerful, globally proven but locally supported fire system can support 64 panels with each panel supporting up to 2,500 addressable points. Delivering superior alarm response time across any size network, all EST3 operating features are software controlled providing the designer with great flexibility to integrate all fire control functions into a single seamless design.

EST3 is designed and built to minimise labour and wiring costs in new and retrofit installations, dramatically simplifying system maintenance and upgrades. The EST3 platform is already compatible in New Zealand, and will soon be compatible in Australia, with GE's very popular Ziton legacy detectors and devices. Compatibility with the EST3 platform provides a cost-effective upgrade and replacement path for customers, protecting investments already made in Ziton AS2 fire systems.

Additional popular components of an EST3 fire system include:

Fireworks™ Graphical Command Interface –

provides prioritised real-time, event driven screens as a single point of monitoring/control

Signature Series multisensor detectors –

distributed intelligence, faster response times, superior system performance and diagnostics

Genesis Series synchronised sounders and strobes –

cost effective, attractive, superior sound penetration, synchronised T3 audio & visual signals

Global investment, local development

GE continues to invest in and develop new technology to improve and expand its fire and life safety portfolio. The following capabilities have been recently released or are planned for release later this year.

AU-Series Cabinets – released mid 2009

sturdy and suitable for any size project, 19" rack-mount railing for configuration flexibility

GE EWIS – released mid 2009

lower cost, flexible modular design with true digital voice communication, EST3 integration

EST3 Kit – released mid 2009

entry-level configuration, smaller system applications, expandable using a network card

Ziton Loop Driver for EST3 – due for release late 2009

retain existing Ziton detectors and field devices when upgrading Ziton AS2 to EST3 platforms

Fan Control Module for EST3 – due for release late 2009

controls and indicators for up to four fans per module, networked, complies with AS1668

GE Security's strategy is to be the leader in integrated fire and life safety solutions and we value your ongoing interest in our products. We continue to offer you significant local engineering investments and product development to ensure GE Security remains the preferred solution for your fire detection, EWIS, Occupant Warning System and Mass Notification requirements.

To learn more about these exciting developments and the future direction of fire and life safety, please contact David Isaac, Fire Sales Leader or visit our website.

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