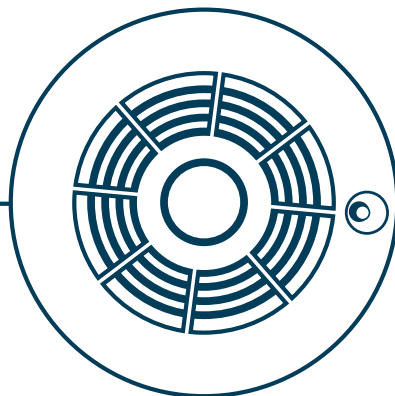


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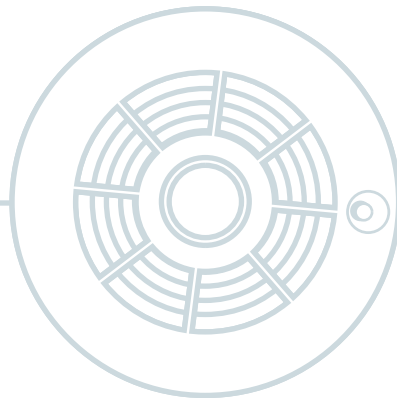
Fire Industry Association



Smoke Alarms for Boats

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1. BACKGROUND

This Fact File gives information for how smoke alarms should be used in boats and includes website details of manufacturers who supply alarms suitable for installation in boats.

This information is suitable for boats up to 24 metres used for leisure, hire or residential purposes.

For other classes of craft, such as commercial or work boats, regulations requiring specified equipment may apply.

2. FIRE SAFETY ON BOATS

The BSS (Boat Safety Scheme) leaflet Fire Safety on Boats gives valuable advice on how to prevent fire hazards on boats. It recommends that fitting Optical sensor smoke alarms with hush buttons and 'sealed for life' batteries are best for boats. Optical, also called photoelectric alarms, are much less prone to nuisance alarms from cooking fumes and the hush button allows rapid silencing if a nuisance alarm occurs.

The smoke alarms should be installed as per the manufacturer's and the BSS instruction's as far as is practical. The following is some additional advice.

3. HOW MANY SMOKE ALARMS SHOULD BE FITTED

The more suitable and routinely tested alarms you have installed the more confident you can be about the early detection of a developing fire and about hearing an alarm when this happens. If you have more than one alarm consider interconnecting alarms. Alarms are now available that can be interconnected either by wire or wireless RF.

No areas of the boat to be protected should be further than 5m from an alarm. In the case of large vessels, such as some narrow boats, the dimensions of the vessel may mean a slower reaction time for a single alarm and so you may need to install multiple units for maximum protection.

4. WHERE TO FIT SMOKE ALARMS

The ideal place is along the centreline of the boat in the same cabin space where a heater or cooker is in use, but not too close to any appliance.

It also needs to be mounted on a well-insulated part of the ceiling avoiding cold spots. If you can, try to avoid putting it any closer than 300mm to any vertical surface.

If headroom is a problem and you really have no choice, mount it on a wall between 150mm - 300mm below the ceiling height, but not directly above a ventilator or opening window.

Make sure it is easy to reach so you can test it routinely and so that you can press the hush button with ease.

Always put smoke alarms where you will be able to hear them, particularly when you're asleep or when doors are closed. Try testing the alarm in place before you fix it in position.

5. WHERE NOT TO PUT A SMOKE ALARM

Don't fix a smoke alarm:

- in the galley or bathroom, where it could be accidentally triggered by cooking fumes or steam; or,
- where you can't hear it while you're asleep; or,
- too close to a cooker or heater where the alarm will produce false alerts; or,
- flush to the ceiling and try to avoid positioning the alarm close to any roof ventilator.

6. TEST SMOKE ALARMS REGULARLY

Smoke alarms should be frequently tested at least once a month or in line with the manufacturers instructions, while a boat is in use and, also after periods when the boat was unused.

7. COMBINED SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Combined alarms can be used to cover both fire and toxic CO risks, provided they comply with the following:

- EN 14604 (including Annex L)
- EN 50291-2 (including section for boats)
- carry a recognised approval mark from an independent third party test laboratory
- the manufacturer states that they are suitable for use in boats.

It is also recommended that the alarm have a built-in long life battery.

8. SMOKE ALARMS RECOMMENDED FOR BOATS

The manufacturers listed below all supply smoke alarms that comply to EN14604 (including Annex L) and that are certified by independent third party test laboratories.

The list is not meant to be exhaustive and other smoke alarms also meeting these requirements are also suitable.

Boat Safety Scheme (BSS)

www.boatsafetyscheme.org

Aico

web: www.aico.co.uk

email: enquiries@aico.co.uk

FireAngel

web: www.fireangel.co.uk

email: info@fireangel.co.uk

FireBlitz

web: www.fireblitz.co.uk

email: sales@fireblitz.co.uk

Kidde

web: www.kiddesafetyeurope.co.uk

DISCLAIMER

The information set out in this document is believed to be correct in the light of information currently available but it is not guaranteed and neither the Fire Industry Association nor its officers can accept any responsibility in respect of the contents or any events arising from use of the information contained within this document.



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