



# Position Statement

## Engagement with MBIE on Potential Fuel Disruption

*Summary Statement for Member and Stakeholder Use*

PS-05 Version 1.0 – Issued: 31/03/26



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# Executive Summary

As a result of the recent Middle East conflict, the Fire Protection Association New Zealand (FPANZ) has been working closely with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) in response to the potential fuel supply disruption risks highlighted in recent Government updates.

Our early engagement has focused on the possible effects of constrained fuel availability on fire protection system reliability, and whether any temporary, risk-based adjustments to the testing and inspection frequencies prescribed by NZ Standards may need to be considered under exceptional circumstances to reduce diesel-driven fire pump and technician service vehicle fuel consumption.

Given the ongoing developments, FPANZ has also been actively engaging with members to secure industry data and operational feedback, the practical impacts of any possible supply constraints, and the implications of reducing current testing regimes should this become justified.

FPANZ has no authority to mandate changes to testing regimes set out in New Zealand Standards or required through the New Zealand Building Code and associated compliance schedules, however, FPANZ is actively conveying members' views, concerns, and evidence to MBIE and other relevant government departments, and will continue to do so.

FPANZ's clear position is that the regular testing, servicing, and inspection of fire protection systems are critical services for life safety and property protection, and FPANZ will continue to advocate that position on behalf of members and will also convey any formal messaging back to our membership from MBIE or other government departments.

Part of FPANZ's messaging is that any disruption to fire protection installation work will have a flow-on economic effect since this is essential for gaining occupancy for any new build or consented alteration to an existing building.



## Background and Source Material

Government published material includes [MBIE fuel stock guidance](#) and [Fuel plan announcement](#). These sources have informed FPANZ's recent engagement and ongoing discussions with MBIE.

## MBIE Fuel Disruption Response Framework

MBIE (as at 27/03/2026) has outlined a staged response framework for fuel supply disruption. At a high level, the phases move from monitoring and market-led responses, through to increasing levels of government coordination and intervention if required. Because the detailed settings and fuel stock information change regularly, this document only summarises the framework at a high level and members should refer directly to MBIE's source page for the latest phase descriptions, stock information, and any response measures imposed.

Current MBIE source page: [Middle East conflict and New Zealand's fuel stocks](#)

## Industry Engagement and Data Gathering

In parallel with its discussions with MBIE, FPANZ has been actively liaising with members to gather real-time industry data and insights. This has included seeking feedback on fuel usage associated with routine diesel fire pump testing, the operational impact of any fuel constraints, and the practical implications of modifying current testing regimes.

This member engagement has been important in helping FPANZ develop an evidence-based understanding of sector-wide impacts, including system reliability risks, compliance issues, servicing implications, and the potential unintended consequences of any reduction of prescribed testing/inspection frequencies.

We ask for the continued support and cooperation of our selected members in providing data when we request it to help us build case models and advocate on behalf of all our members. This could include vehicle fleet size, and types of fuel. All such information FPANZ gathers is anonymised and aggregated at a national level and only made available to MBIE.



## Standards, Building Code, and Compliance Considerations

Current inspection and testing requirements remain grounded in the latest published versions of NZS 4541, NZS 4512, and NZS 4503 as published by [Standards New Zealand](#).

NZS 4541 is the principal standard relevant to automatic fire sprinkler systems and associated diesel fire pump testing requirements, while NZS 4512 is the principal standard relevant to fire detection and alarm systems. Both these standards are cited in the MBIE Acceptable Solutions, building consents, and Building Code compliance schedules. Any departure from prescribed testing and servicing requirements would need careful consideration of both the life safety and regulatory compliance implications and would require dispensation or relaxations led by MBIE or local Territorial Authorities (councils).

Standards source: [Standards New Zealand website](#).

FPANZ has also been engaging with various parts of MBIE to explore these broader regulatory implications. This includes consideration of responsibilities for building owners, service agents and Independently Qualified Persons (IQPs), and the need to avoid conflict with statutory and compliance obligations.

## Potential Implications currently Identified

- Reduced assurance of system readiness and performance if routine testing frequencies are decreased.
- Increased risk exposure for building owners and service agents if testing frequency changes are made without a clear regulatory mandate.
- Impacts on inspection, testing, and maintenance obligations linked to building compliance schedules.
- Need for clear, practical guidance for building owners, service providers, and IQPs if any interim relaxations are contemplated.

# Position of FPANZ



FPANZ does not have the authority to mandate or recommend any changes to prescribed testing regimes set out in New Zealand Standards or required through the New Zealand Building Code and associated compliance schedules.

FPANZ does, however, have an important role as the industry representative body and will continue to actively advocate on behalf of members, conveying their views, concerns, and supporting data to MBIE and any other relevant government departments.

FPANZ also maintains the clear position that regular inspection, testing, and servicing of fire protection systems are critical services for both life safety and property protection. On that basis, FPANZ will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of industry to ensure this work is appropriately recognised in any government fuel prioritisation protection, demand management, or related response measures or phases (likely Band A: life-supporting services – uncapped supply, Band B: economically important services, Band C: essential services).

Feedback on priority bands and how businesses fit within them can be sent to: [prioritybands@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:prioritybands@mbie.govt.nz) and you are able to make a submission directly too.

## Conclusion

Through this ongoing engagement, FPANZ is working to ensure that any decisions or guidance issued at a regulatory level appropriately balance fuel resilience objectives with the need to maintain compliant and reliable fire protection systems.

The position remains that any response should be evidence-based, should reflect the practical realities faced by the fire protection industry, and should be aligned with the New Zealand Building Code, compliance schedule requirements, and the latest published standards

## References



- › [MBIE fuel stock guidance](#)
- › [Business.govt.nz](#)
- › [Fuel plan announcement](#)
- › [Standards New Zealand](#)

Note: This document intentionally provides short, readable hyperlink text while retaining the full destination URLs within the document.

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