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Organisation:	Wormald Australia P/L
Title of document:	FRNSW compatible hose connections

Page or section no.	Section title / subject of section	Specific comments or suggestions
1	Section 3 Application	The document details it's application is at the construction and certification stage of fire systems and not post construction. We recommend that information be added that draws attention of the need of reviewing existing fire hydrant valves are compatible to this document. Therefore, the document should also be applicable to at least fire service technician when they verify that the existing hydrant and booster connections are compatible during routine service activities to AS 1851.

FRNSW comment:
 The installation of FRNSW compatible hose connections occurs when installation or upgrade works are being undertaken on the fire hydrant or fire sprinkler system. It is important to note that hydrant/sprinkler systems within existing buildings already have hose connections installed to a standard as per the fire safety schedule and as when commissioned for the relevant fire safety certificate

1	Section 4 Regulation and standards	Add AS 1851-2012 as a reference standard even though it is not a regulatory referenced standard to validate the system is still capable of operating as required. Suggest adding new paragraph which reference the NSW EPA regulations for maintaining fire services then referencing AS 1851-2012 as a standard that has systematic routines services to validate fire systems are still capable of operating within the "approved design" tolerances. The following are the reference clauses from AS 1851-2012 for validating that the coupling type is compatible to the local fire brigade requirements on sprinkler and hydrant systems. Clause 2.4.2 of AS 1851-2012 amdt 1 Monthly schedule item 1.4 (table 2.4.2.1) for all sprinkler systems Clause 4.4 of AS 1851-2012 amdt 1 6-Monthly schedule hydrant item 2.7 (table 4.4.2) Clause 4.4 of AS 1851-2012 amdt 1 yearly schedule hydrant item 3.5 (table 4.4.3) Clause 5.4 of AS 1851-2012 amdt 1 yearly schedule tank suction fittings item 3.19 (table 5.4.3)
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FRNSW comment:
 Maintenance is to be undertaken consistent with 'Part 9 Division 5 Fire safety statements' of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, where annual or supplementary fire safety statements are to be issued verifying that fire safety systems will perform to a standard no less than that specified in the schedule (i.e. as originally installed at the time of commissioning). *Australian Standard AS 1851: Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment* may be referenced in future versions of this document after corresponding legislation changes have been made.

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3	Section 5 Background	<p>2nd paragraph last sentence may be misinterpreted that all existing hydrant valve must be fitted with a compliant Storz adapter.</p> <p>Suggest removing the wording of “(i.e. a Storz adapter must be used)” or expand on this wording to (i.e. NSW FB will fit a storz adapter if required in a emergency to an existing FBT)</p>

FRNSW comment:

Agreed. The wording has been expanded to “(i.e. FRNSW must fit a Storz adapter to the FBT hose connection before connecting a fire hose)”.

3	Sub section 6.2.4	<p>Recommend that FRNSW produce a document that is on their website that will assist personal verifying that where a FBT Storz adapter is fitted to a NSW FBT, that this Storz adapter is compliant with these requirements. This document would details the corresponding manufacturer’s mark and the forging mark on a FBT Storz adapters that identifies that FBT Storz. Only FBT Storz that been verified by submitted certification document to that of clause 6.2.5 which has been submitted to FRNSW by the manufacturer or their nominated distributor would be added to this document. Wormald is in the process to develop such a document for use in-house.</p>
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FRNSW comment:

FRNSW intends to publish information to assist stakeholders, especially regulatory authorities who have the legal authority to issue a Fire Safety Order, on how to identify non-complying cast aluminium hose connections. Australian Standards and this technical information sheet (including previous versions) have clearly stated that aluminium hose connectors must be forged and not cast. FRNSW is aware that some installers/suppliers are providing cast aluminium hose connectors for economic advantage, including with supporting “compliant” documentation. A simple destructive test will clearly show the significant yield strength difference and metallurgical difference between cast and forged aluminium. The yield strength difference could also be exploited by having a non-destructive test.

During an inspection, any cast aluminium FBT Storz adaptors identified fitted to a fire hydrant or fire sprinkler system does not satisfy the standard of performance of AS 2419 applicable by the fire safety schedule, irrespective of any fire safety certificate issued to the contrary. These are to be replaced with complying forged hose connections. This onus rests with the building owner including meeting any associated costs. Installers and suppliers must exercise diligence when replacing cast aluminium FBT Storz adaptors with forged ones. Certifiers and regulatory authorities are also responsible for ensuring installers/suppliers correctly fit compliant hose connections, including the rejection of any replacement hose connections that don’t satisfy the FRNSW technical information sheet. The building owner may seek costs associated with the rejection of replacement hose connections from the installer who fits improper FBT Storz adaptors.

General comments or suggestions

On behalf of Wormald I like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on this document, we support the FRNSW in developing such a document and implementing its use ASAP.

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