Installing Smoke Alarms?

Are You Confused?

Too Many Conflicting Views?

at last...

The 17th EDITION MYTH EXPLODED!

- Smoke alarms can be connected to a lighting circuit – this is the preferred circuit
- The *alternative* is wiring on a dedicated circuit

WHO SAYS THIS?

- Most reputable smoke alarm manufacturers.
- The IEE, NICEIC, ECA and SELECT

WHAT DOES THE 17th EDITION SAY?

- It makes no reference to domestic smoke alarm installations in the whole document

WHY ARE SOME MANUFACTURERS SAYING THAT SMOKE ALARMS SHOULD BE WIRED ON A DEDICATED CIRCUIT?

- They are misinterpreting the requirements of Chapter 56 – Safety Services. This makes reference to Fire detection and alarm systems, but in section 560.10 it refers you to BS 5839 for the specific requirements. Appendix A makes it quite clear that BS 5839: Pt,1 is the document being referred to. This standard is for commercial systems, not the standard for domestic smoke alarm systems, this is BS 5839: Pt.6.

I'M CONFUSED, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- In the absence of specific advice in the 17th Edition for domestic smoke alarm systems to Grade D (mains with a back-up) follow the recommendations of BS 5839: Pt.6.

WHAT ARE THEY EXACTLY?

Clause 15.5 states that Grade D smoke alarms can be wired from either ...

- 'An independent circuit at the dwellings main distribution board, in which case no other electrical equipment should be connected to this circuit..'
- Or 'A separately electrically protected, regularly used lighting circuit'.
- Note that RCD protection is not mentioned. Therefore, an RCD protected circuit is acceptable
- Hard-wired systems must be on a single final circuit
- Radio-Linked systems can be on separate lighting circuits

DO YOU NEED FURTHER ADVICE?

- Call us on the number below, OR
- Talk to the IEE, NICEIC, ECA or SELECT

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