



**FIRE &  
RESCUE**

## Fire Safety Guideline FSG-24

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### Sprinklers in Cupboards

Issued August 2022

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## Contents

Glossary of terms .....	3
Purpose .....	4
Intent.....	4
Application .....	4
Policy Position .....	4
Euro Style Laundries.....	4
Placement of Sprinklers .....	4
Further Clarification .....	4
Table 1: Relevant legislation and documents .....	5

## Glossary of terms

### Acronym / term

### Meaning

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NCC

National Construction Code

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SOU

Sole Occupancy Unit

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Euro Style Laundry

Any cupboard or wardrobe or compartment which contains or has the potential to contain a washing machine, dryer, combination washing machine and dryer or similar appliance.

# FSG-24

## Sprinklers in Cupboards

### Purpose

This guideline has been developed by ACTF&R to provide consistent advice in the application of sprinkler installations within buildings containing euro style laundries (i.e., laundry facilities in cupboards, not limited to – washing machines, tumble dryers or combination type appliances).

### Intent

To reduce the impact of a fire type event in a confined euro style laundry cupboard. This is primarily for the safety of occupants within the SOU, and to promote the safety of firefighters when managing an incident in a SOU. Automatic sprinkler systems provide safer access and egress for firefighters and occupants in the event of a fire.

### Application

This fire safety guideline applies to all buildings requiring sprinkler protection under the NCC.

### Policy Position

Washers and dryers are a major cause of fire in the ACT. When these appliances or similar are installed within a cupboard type compartment the compartment or area is not considered a cupboard but a laundry. Any concessions provided to omit sprinkler protection to a cupboard or wardrobe do not apply in these circumstances.

### Euro Style Laundries

A euro style laundry is a cupboard or wardrobe or similar compartment which contains or has the potential to contain a washing machine, dryer, combination washing machine and dryer or similar appliance. These cupboards may also include mechanical ventilation, waterproofing and floor wastes, and water connections.

When these items are placed in a cupboard like compartment the compartment is no longer considered a cupboard. The provision of cupboard doors or otherwise and the type of room the laundry compartment is in does not affect this determination.

### Placement of Sprinklers

Clause 5.9.17 of AS2118.1-2017 provides a concession where sprinklers may be omitted from cupboards and wardrobes in certain circumstances.

As a euro style laundry is not considered a cupboard clause 5.9.17 of AS2118.1-2017 is not applicable. These areas therefore require sprinkler protection to be installed within the cupboard / compartment.

### Further Clarification

For further information or clarification please consult the original legislation and referenced documents or contact the ACTF&R Community Safety Section.

Related forms and documents
Building Act 2004 (ACT)
Building Regulation 2008 (ACT)
Emergency Act 2004 (ACT)
Emergency Regulation 2004 (ACT)
National Construction Code (NCC)
AS2118.1-2017 Automatic fire sprinkler systems, Part 1: General systems

*Table 1: Relevant legislation and documents*