

Subject: What type of Fire Alarm do I need?

There are three main Fire Alarm System types that could be differentiated by their set-up and wiring:

- **A Conventional Fire Alarm** divides your premises into broad zones, and in the event of an alert, the fire alarm panel identifies the zone, but not the precise location
- **An Addressable Fire Alarm** is a more intelligent type of fire alarm system and it can be programmed to take additional actions in order to protect the premises. Each individual fire detection device has its own unique electronic address. The fire alarm panel tells you precisely where the problem is.



Additional features include:

1. Pre-alarm function to minimise false alarms and the associated costs/inconvenience of an evacuation
2. Dual-state fire detectors which can be programmed to give different modes of detection at different times of the day
3. Cause and effect programming – enabling phased evacuation of a building
4. Real time log–control panel stores every event on the system. This information can be accessed at any time via the user menu or by inspecting the system print-out, where a printer is fitted



5. Self-check fire alarm sounders. Sounders which check their own operation and report a fault and their location if they do not hear their own sound.
 - **A Wireless (Radio) Fire Alarm** system is an effective alternative to traditional wired fire alarm systems for all applications. This type of system uses radio signals instead of wires to send instructions to different endpoints around the premises.

Open or Closed Protocol – What does it mean for you?

In the Fire Detection industry, addressable systems use Control Panels, Detectors and other devices which communicate with each other by means of a protocol. The protocol is a language used by a fire alarm system for communicating between devices.

An '**Open Protocol**' allows fire detection equipment and control panels to be compatible with a greater selection of manufacturers, offering you more freedom of choice when sourcing products and installation companies.

A '**Closed Protocol**' is a stand-alone system where the device manufacturer produces all the devices and control panels for the complete network and there is no compatibility with any other manufacturer's components. Once you choose a closed protocol, you are more likely to be locked into one company for the supply and maintenance of the complete system.

Fixfire® has always offered "open" protocol systems – we engender loyalty and strong lasting relationships for all the good reasons – not because our clients are tied!

The type of Fire Alarm System required in your premises should be identified within the current Fire Safety Risk Assessment.

Got a question about Fire Risk Assessments? Need Fire Safety Compliance advice? Get in touch today!

For over 45 years, Fixfire® has been providing quality products, systems and services for Life & Property Protection. Whatever your requirement, please call our Compliance Team for expert advice and a refreshingly different approach.

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