

# Should the CSIRO Certify Ionization Smoke Alarms?

## Open Letter

to:

Dr Megan Clark, Chief Executive, CSIRO

from:



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The World Fire Safety Foundation (WFSF) is a self-funded Non-Profit Organization founded in March, 2000. We do not sell anything, solicit or accept donations.

Monday 13 May, 2013

Dr Megan Clark | Chief Executive, CSIRO  
C/- Annemaree Lonergan | P.A. to Dr Clark **by Email**  
Locked Bag 10, Clayton South VIC 3169 **by Registered/Certified Mail**



**Open Letter:**  
**Should the CSIRO Certify Ionization Smoke Alarms?**

Dear Dr Clarke

This Open Letter is following the advice of Mr Mark Brisson, the Australasian President of United Technologies Corporation (UTC) the world's largest ionization smoke alarm manufacturer (see final paragraph below).

The World Fire Safety Foundation (WFSF) has been communicating with the CSIRO for several years about litigation and public safety concerns with the CSIRO's testing of ionization smoke alarms.

UTC own the Quell, Chubb and Kidde smoke alarm brands. Standards Australia are responsible for Australia's Smoke Alarm Standard. Testing in accordance with the Standard is conducted by third parties, primarily the CSIRO. On 23 April 2012, at my request, my local MP, Mr Chris Gulaptis, wrote to UTC requesting disclosure of the level of visible smoke the Quell Q946 ionization smoke alarm in his home activated under CSIRO testing. When UTC's President Mr Brisson responded to Mr Gulaptis's letter on 04 June 2012 he failed to answer Mr Gulaptis's sole question. Despite three follow up letters in August and November 2012, and February 2013, UTC have, after a period exceeding one year, failed to answer Mr Gulaptis - hence the reason for this letter.

A Certificate of Conformity for the Quell Q946 ionization smoke alarm in Mr Gulaptis's home was issued under the CSIRO's ActiveFire Verification Services scheme on 22 December 2011 (attached). The Certificate of Conformity and all Gulaptis/Brisson letters are in the Public Domain: [www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/utc](http://www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/utc)

**Litigation:** CSIRO scientific test results state ionization smoke alarms do not activate until **at least double** the 20% maximum limit for visible smoke set by Standards Australia. In *Mercer vs BRK*, US\$16.7M in punitive damages was awarded when BRK; *"failed to disclose the known limitations of the (ionization) detector to the consumer."* [www.theWFSF.org/mercercase](http://www.theWFSF.org/mercercase) In 2008 U.S. Federal court appeal judges ruled that the

**The World Fire Safety Foundation**

45 The Lakes Boulevard, Wooloweyah, NSW 2464 AUSTRALIA P +61 (0) 409 782 166 E [ab@theWFSF.org](mailto:ab@theWFSF.org)

failure of an ionization alarm to sound a timely warning was; “a legal cause of the deaths of William and Christine Hackert.” [www.theWFSF.org/hackertcase](http://www.theWFSF.org/hackertcase) An original hard copy of the WFSF’s C.A.N. report ‘Recommending selling or installing ionization smoke alarms’, a **Criminal Act of Negligence?** was provided to the CSIRO in February 2007: [www.TheWFSF.org/can](http://www.TheWFSF.org/can)

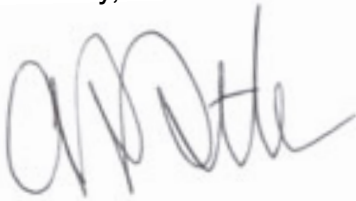
**Public Safety:** The CSIRO’s Code of Conduct states; “Our primary function is to . . . encourage or facilitate the application and use of the results of CSIRO scientific research.” (page 2, para 2). Note the statement made by UTC’s Mr Brisson in his attached letter of 04 June 2012; “...if you have any questions regarding the Certificate of Conformity issued by the CSIRO Verification Services, **these questions should be directed to the CSIRO.**” Ms Clark, further to Mr Brisson’s request, please advise the smoke density recorded under the CSIRO’s smoke alarm sensitivity testing under clauses 7 (e) and (f) of AS2362.17 for Quell’s Q946 ionization smoke alarms as per the CSIRO’s Certificate of Conformity.

An objective of the CSIRO ActiveFire scheme is; “To provide an effective and **transparent** mechanism for testing...” [www.ActiveFire.gov.au/outline.asp](http://www.ActiveFire.gov.au/outline.asp) An email copied to you in August 2009 asked (in the interests of transparency), if we could film the CSIRO’s smoke alarm testing. The message was unanswered. May we, or the media, film these tests? (a copy of this email is on page 10)

Please advise.

Thank you.

Sincerely,





**The World Fire Safety Foundation**

Adrian Butler  
Chairman, Co-Founder  
45 Lakes Boulevard  
Wooloweyah, NSW 2460  
Australia

**More:** Open Letters to Underwriters Laboratories (UL) about flawed testing of ionization alarms:  
[www.theWFSF.org/ulletters](http://www.theWFSF.org/ulletters)

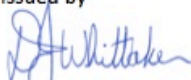
The law suit alleging fraudulent Standards testing of ionization alarms by UL:  
[www.theWFSF.org/ulsued](http://www.theWFSF.org/ulsued)


**Complete Document in the Public Domain**  
This Open Letter extract is part of a larger document  
which includes a CSIRO ‘Certificate of Conformity’.  
[www.Scribd.com/doc/289156510](http://www.Scribd.com/doc/289156510)

		CSIRO Verification Services Highett, Victoria, Australia +61 (0)3 9252 6000 <a href="http://www.activfire.gov.au">http://www.activfire.gov.au</a>		
<h2>Certificate of Conformity</h2>				
Certificate num.	Registration date	Version	Valid until	Page 1 of 1
<b>afp - 2375</b>	12-Oct-2009	Number 4	Issue date 22-Dec-2011	
<b>Product designation</b>				<p>This certification is issued within the scope of CSIRO Verification Services – Rules governing ActivFire Scheme and is valid only for the product(s) as submitted for evaluation and verification of conformity, subject to the following conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reference to details, limitations and requirements, where documented as a schedule/enclosure with this certificate.</li><li>• The Registrant is responsible for their attestation of conformity and ensuring that on-going production complies with the conformance criteria defined in this certificate.</li><li>• This certificate will not be valid if any changes or modifications are made to the product which have not been notified and validated by CSIRO Verification Services.</li><li>• This certificate is subject to periodical re-validation upon verification that all requirements, as determined by the conformity assessment body, continue to be satisfactorily met by the Registrant.</li><li>• This certificate may only be reproduced in its published form, without modification and inclusive of all schedules/enclosures.</li><li>• Any changes, errors or omissions, must be submitted in writing and if necessary or requested, substantiated with relevant evidence.</li><li>• Any representations, such as advertising or other marketing related activities or articles shall reflect the correct contents of this certificate and conform with all relevant trade practices, and consumer protection legislation and regulations.</li><li>• Any terms or conditions of use as applicable to content and documentation as published or accessed through web sites administered by the CSIRO Verification Services.</li></ul>
<b>Quell, Model Q946, 9 Vdc battery powered, silencing/hush facility, ionisation smoke alarm</b>				
<b>Agent/distributor</b>				
Chubb Fire & Security Ltd 149-155 Milton Street, ASHFIELD, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2131				
<b>Registrant</b>				
UTC Fynetics Rongwen Road 1, No. 3 Industrial Estate, ChangAn, DONG GUAN, GUANG DONG PROVINCE, CHINA, 523842				
<b>Producer</b>				
UTC Fynetics Rongwen Road 1, No. 3 Industrial Estate, ChangAn, DONG GUAN, GUANG DONG PROVINCE, CHINA, 523842				
<b>Conformance criteria and evaluation</b>				
The Quell, Model Q946, 9 Vdc battery powered, silencing/hush facility, ionisation smoke alarm has been evaluated and verified as conforming with the relevant requirements of the following criteria.				
1. Australian Standard AS 3786-1993, 'Smoke alarms' incl. Amdt 1 (April 1995) / Amdt 2 (December 1995) / Amdt 3 (9 November 2001) / Amdt 4 (22 April 2004).				
<b>Limitations/conditions of conformance</b>				
Limitations/conditions of conformance, where identified on this certificate, are derived from qualifications from evaluation(s) for conformity and/or other related technical documentation. All details with respect to design, assembly and installation instructions and restrictions should be checked against the producer's current technical manual/data sheets and the requirements of the Authority having Jurisdiction.				

Channel 9 News Senior Reporter States (see page 6),  
“...ionization alarms have failed Australian Standards\* since 1993”  
\*Unable to pass the CSIRO's 'scientific' tests for visible smoke.


**Is the CSIRO Failing in it's Duty of Care?**  
Ionization smoke alarms are in almost all Australian homes. Compelling evidence shows they are not fit for purpose (pages 6-8). Should the CSIRO be exercising their Duty of Care by warning the public of the known, life-threatening limitations of these devices?

Issued by  
  
David Whittaker  
Executive Officer – ActivFire Scheme



© CSIRO Australia, 2010

This certificate remains the property of CSIRO and may be subject to amendment, suspension or withdrawal at any time.  
The validity and authenticity of this certificate can be verified by the certification register located at <http://www.activfire.gov.au>



This 'Certificate of Conformity' extracted from [CSIRO Website](http://www.csiro.gov.au)

the

Winter 2013

# volunteer fire fighter

Volume 5 No.1

Official magazine of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association



Coonabarabran Fire 2013 •

Photos of the Yarrabin Fire 2013 •

A Tough Day at Tarcutta •

The Phantom Speaks Out •

World Fire Safety Foundation Special Report:  
Can Smoke Alarm Standards be Trusted? •



[www.WorldFireSafetyFoundation.org](http://www.WorldFireSafetyFoundation.org)

The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks the Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association for permission to reproduce and disseminate this report.

West Head Fire

**Note:** This Special WFSF Report, with links to other key documents: [www.Scribd.com/doc/139524431](http://www.Scribd.com/doc/139524431)



### Darren Curtis

Senior Reporter, Channel 9 News  
Brisbane, Australia. May 2011

**"...the ionization alarms have failed\* Australian Standards since 1993."**

\*Unable to pass CSIRO scientific tests for visible smoke.

In May, 2011 a stunning statement was made about the ionization type of smoke alarm installed in hundreds of millions of homes around the world.

They have been unable to pass Australian Government (CSIRO) scientific tests for visible smoke since 1993.

Is this the catalyst for a global ban and recall?

### Australian & N.Z. Fire Brigades Make a Stand



### AFAC's Official Position

**"That all residential accommodation be fitted with photoelectric smoke alarms."**

Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council's (AFAC) official position on smoke alarms. June 2006

AFAC is the peak representative body of all Australian & New Zealand Fire Brigades:

[www.theWFSF.org/afac](http://www.theWFSF.org/afac)



## Can Australian and US Smoke Alarm Standards be Trusted?

A Special World Fire Safety Foundation Report

### Australia's Double Standard

**Note: There are two completely different types of smoke alarms:**

Ionization and Photoelectric - both can be either battery or hard-wired.

- The **Ionization** type are in most homes.
- The **Photoelectric** type are in most commercial buildings.

May 2004: Photoelectric alarms made mandatory in new commercial buildings.

Feb 2006: Discovery made that ionization alarms in most Australian homes do not activate until "dangerously high" levels of smoke. Why was the correction to the Australian Smoke Alarm Standard blocked?

(See The C.A.N. Report on page 3).

We frequently turn on lights, fasten our seat belts, hop in elevators and fall sleep at night protected by our smoke alarms - without giving a second thought as to whether these devices are safe. Why should we? Most products carry seals of approval from Government Standards organizations. We trust them. But what happens if a Standard is flawed?

### Standards Approved

From 1993-2000 Karl Westwell and Adrian Butler owned and operated a franchise that installed tens of thousands of ionization smoke alarms in Australian and New Zealand homes.

These alarms carried the seals of Standards Australia and in some cases the world's largest testing agency, America's Underwriters Laboratories (UL). So when customers started complaining their smoke alarms would go off when burning toast but failed to activate in real-world fires, Westwell and Butler investigated. What they discovered shocked them.

### IAFC Warned about Ionization Alarms in 1980

In September 1980 the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) published their '[Residential Smoke Alarm Report](#)' urging fire chiefs to only recommend photoelectric alarms.



### Chief Jay Fleming

Boston Fire Department  
Massachusetts, USA. Dec 2007

UL217 Standards Committee Member

**"I think the ionization alarm is responsible for as many as 10,000 deaths since 1990."**

Deadly Smoke Detectors TV series:  
[www.theWFSF.org/cbs](http://www.theWFSF.org/cbs)

They warned ionization alarms; **"... might be so slow to operate in a smoldering fire that lives may be in danger."**

The IAFC also warned about [combination ionization/photoelectric alarms](#); **"...what is to be gained by adding an ionization element to a good photoelectric element? In the sub-committee's opinion, nothing"** (Page 6, Appendix B).

### UL Testing Questioned

In December 1999 in the Washington Post's exposé, 'How Safe are Products Bearing the UL Mark?' Boston Fire Chief Jay Fleming warned, **"While an alarm may sound in UL's labs, it may not go off in a home..."**



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[www.Scribd.com/doc/139524431](http://www.Scribd.com/doc/139524431)

## 'Silent Alarms' Documentary

In January 2000 Canadian TV aired an award-winning documentary, 'Silent Alarms'. This film featured a landmark law suit where US\$16.3M was awarded in punitive damages because the manufacturer, "Failed to disclose the known limitations of the (ionization) detector to the consumer" - even though the manufacturer argued their alarms passed UL's testing standards.

*"But we have to rely on the Standards."*

Because of the large number of customer complaints and after extensive research, Westwell and Butler co-founded the World Fire

Safety Foundation (WFSF) in March 2000. The WFSF's mission is to warn the public and fire fighters about the life-threatening defects inherent in all ionization smoke alarms.

Nevertheless, for six years fire authorities in both the USA and Australia took the position there was nothing wrong with ionization alarms because they passed the Standards.

However, in February 2006, Standards Australia discovered a serious flaw in the Australian Standard. CSIRO data showed ionization alarms were not activating in smoke alarm tests until "dangerously high and totally unacceptable" levels of smoke.



**Chief Marc McGinn**

Albany Fire Department, CA, USA  
Today Tonight, Australia. June 2011

*"... it's about recall: it's about banning ionization technology and only having the photoelectric technology."*

[www.theWFSF.org/tourstory2](http://www.theWFSF.org/tourstory2)

## UL & Kidde (UTC) Try to Block Photoelectric Legislation

*"I was appalled when I heard Kidde was going to be here and I was appalled when I heard Underwriters Laboratories was going to be here. They are here for one reason. Profits. They want to protect monetary interest . . . we want to protect your kids."*

Dean Dennis, Fathers For Fire Safety, testifying at Albany City Council hearing. June 2010

[www.theWFSF.org/afdo](http://www.theWFSF.org/afdo)



**Dean Dennis**

## When Standards are Flawed - Who Can You Trust?

**The Smoke Alarm Manufacturers and Government Agencies who Failed to Warn us for Decades?**

OR



**The International Association of Fire Fighters?**

(over 300,000 US and Canadian members)

- Do not fight fires or risk their lives.
- Despite empirical scientific evidence proving ionization smoke alarms are unable to respond reliably to the presence of visible smoke, they continue to fail to warn the public.<sup>1</sup>
- Recommend Photoelectric AND Ionization alarms.
- Risk their lives fighting fires.
- Urge changing to photoelectric alarms to; "**drastically reduce the loss of life among citizens and fire fighters.**" The IAFF also warns; "**ionization smoke alarms may not operate in time to alert occupants early enough to escape from smoldering fires.**"
- Recommend ONLY photoelectric smoke alarms.

*"The International Association of Fire Chiefs discovered ionization smoke alarms were dangerously defective in 1980<sup>2</sup>: [www.theWFSF.org/iafc](http://www.theWFSF.org/iafc) Tragically their message was buried. So after decades of failing to warn the public and after thousands of needless deaths, manufacturers and Government agencies now claim (since 2006) there are two types of fires (smoldering and flaming) so you now need two types of smoke alarms<sup>3</sup>.*

*This is misleading, there are not two types of fires. There are stages of a fire. Most fires have a smoldering stage that usually transitions into the flaming stage. Ionization alarms are unreliable in the smoldering stage."*

*Adrian Butler, Chairman, The World Fire Safety Foundation, NSW, Australia, May, 2013*

**Note:** see the IAFF's position above, and the official position of all Australian and New Zealand Fire Brigades (AFAC) on page 1.

<sup>1</sup> See the series of Open Letters where UTC, the world's largest ionization alarm manufacturer has failed to disclose the level of smoke their ionization smoke alarms activate in CSIRO testing to an Australian Member of Parliament: [www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/utc](http://www.SmokeAlarmWarning.org/utc)

<sup>2</sup> Most Fire Departments today are unaware of the decades of misinformation about ionization alarms and flawed Government Smoke Alarm Standards. However, as they become aware of the facts, an increasing number of Fire Departments are making a stand, e.g.: North East Ohio Fire Prevention Association: [www.NEOFPA.org](http://www.NEOFPA.org) | Queensland Fire & Rescue Service: [www.theWFSF.org/qfrspromo](http://www.theWFSF.org/qfrspromo)

<sup>3</sup> **Types vs Stages:** Fatal fires often have an extended smoldering stage - before the fire bursts into flames Photoelectric alarms are proven reliable for BOTH stages. Ionization alarms have been proven to be defective in the early, smoldering stage of fire. If you can convince consumers there are two types of fire you can sell them two types of alarms. However, if you have two stages of fire you only need ONE alarm - one that will respond reliably to the early smoldering stage AND the flaming stage. This is why the IAFF only recommend stand-alone photoelectric alarms and do NOT recommend combination photoelectric/ionization alarms: [www.theWFSF.org/iaff](http://www.theWFSF.org/iaff) (see graph on next page).

# Why Australian and US Smoke Alarm Standards Can Not be Trusted

## US Smoke Alarm Standard: UL217

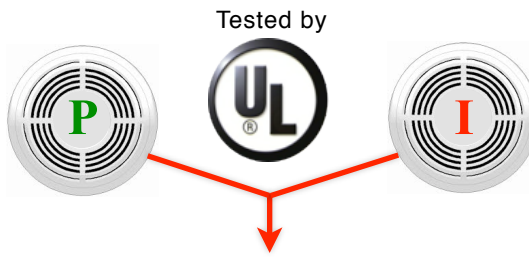
**Photoelectric and Ionization alarms must pass identical smoldering and flaming fire tests. . .**

### Passing Identical Tests

Manufacturers defend their ionization alarms stating, for example, "Every Kidde smoke alarm, regardless of technology, **must pass identical tests** in order to meet the current smoke alarm performance standard, UL217."

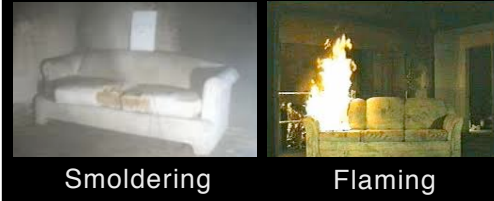
However, UL is being sued for alleged fraudulent Standards testing:

[www.theWFSF.org/ulsued](http://www.theWFSF.org/ulsued)



. . .but what if the tests are flawed?

Photoelectric & Ionization alarms must pass tests for both stages of fire



## Australian Smoke Alarm Standard: AS3786-1993



**Photoelectric** smoke alarms must pass tests for **visible smoke**

i.e. smoke particles typically generated in the **early**, smoldering stage of a fire which continue into the flaming stage.

**Ionization** alarms must pass tests for **sub-micron particles, but not visible smoke**

i.e. invisible particles are typically generated **after** fire in the early, smoldering stage transitions into the flaming stage.

Clause 2.1 of Australia's Smoke Alarm Standard states, "**The smoke alarm shall be designed to respond reliably to the presence of smoke.**"

In 2005 the WFSF warned the Standard was flawed as ionization alarms were not required to pass the test for visible smoke. Standards Australia corrected the flawed Standard in August 2008.

The Australian Building Codes Board is continuing to block the amended Standard: [www.theWFSF.org/sa](http://www.theWFSF.org/sa)



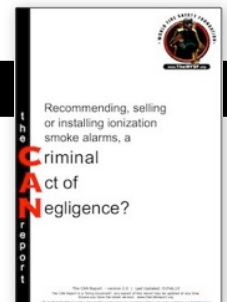
### Flaw in Australian Standard Discovered Feb 2006

"What we discovered to our horror, as the Australian Standard's committee doing some enquiries into test data, was that the ionization smoke alarms are allowed to go to 50-60% (smoke) obscuration per meter, dangerously high, totally unacceptable!"

David Isaac, **Standards Australia Committee FP002 Member**, NSW, Australia.  
August 2006 from 'The C.A.N. Report', (page 8) [www.theWFSF.org/can](http://www.theWFSF.org/can)



David Isaac



The C.A.N. Report



Dr Megan Clark

The CSIRO advised Standards Australia in February 2006 that photoelectric smoke alarms, when tested by the CSIRO in accordance with the Australian Smoke Alarm Standard, respond to 8-16% smoke (light obscuration per meter). The maximum limit set for photoelectrics under the Standard is 20%. Ionization smoke alarms subjected to the same tests do not respond until over 50% smoke. Examine Standards Australia's argument to require ionization alarms to pass the same test for visible smoke that photoelectric smoke alarms must pass: [www.Scribd.com/doc/13917758](http://www.Scribd.com/doc/13917758)

CSIRO scientific test data proves ionization alarms do not respond reliably to the presence of smoke. The public needs to know that their ionization alarms may not give the early warning they need to safely escape from smoldering fires. Will the CSIRO's Chief Executive, Dr Megan Clark act responsibly and block certification of ionization alarms before more lives are needlessly lost? (See Open Letter on page 4).



Monday 13 May, 2013

Dr Megan Clark | Chief Executive, CSIRO  
C/- Annemaree Lonergan | P.A. to Dr Clark | [by Email](#)  
Locked Bag 10, Clayton South VIC 3169 | [by Registered/Certified Mail](#)



## Open Letter Extract: Should the CSIRO Certify Ionization Smoke Alarms?

Dear Dr Clarke

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Please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**The World Fire Safety Foundation**  
Adrian Butler *Chairman, Co-Founder*

**More:** Open Letters to Underwriters Laboratories (UL) about flawed testing of ionization alarms: [www.TheWFSF.org/ulletters](http://www.TheWFSF.org/ulletters)  
The law suit alleging fraudulent Standards testing of ionization alarms by UL: [www.TheWFSF.org/ulsued](http://www.TheWFSF.org/ulsued)

**The World Fire Safety Foundation**

45 The Lakes Boulevard, Wooloweyah, NSW 2464 AUSTRALIA P +61 (0) 409 782 166 E [ab@theWFSF.org](mailto:ab@theWFSF.org)

**Complete Document in the Public Domain**

This Open Letter extract is part of a larger document which includes a CSIRO 'Certificate of Conformity'.  
[www.Scribd.com/doc/289156510](http://www.Scribd.com/doc/289156510)

**It's time for a solution - to end the double standard and pass legislation to mandate the same photoelectric protection in our homes as in our commercial buildings - before more lives are needlessly lost.**

17 August 2009: World Fire Safety Foundation email sent to CSIRO requesting permission to film CSIRO testing of ionization smoke alarms

On 17 August 2009 21:48, Adrian Butler <[email address removed](#)> wrote:

Attention:

Mark Burgess

Manager Fire Systems Testing

CSIRO

c.c.

- Dr Megan Clarke, CEO, CSIRO

(as Dr Stephen Morton does not respond to email or SMS messages I will continue to c.c. Dr Clarke)

- David Isaac, Standards Australia, FP2 Committee

Good Morning Mark

**AS2362.17 Testing by the CSIRO**

Aaron Holloway lost his wife, Ash, and four children Brodie, Thomas, Mackenzie and Cooper in a house fire yesterday. Mr Holloway's loss prompted this message. . .

A few years back we discussed the CSIRO's testing of ionisation and photoelectric smoke alarms. In our discussion you mentioned that under AS 2362.17 there is ONE test, NOT two tests, and TWO measures of the ONE test i.e. a measure for ionisation alarms (MIC 'X') and a measure for photoelectric alarms (light obs/m). We refer to this situation as AS3786/AS2362.17's '[deadly loophole](#)' which, as you are probably aware, Standards Australia is now attempting to close with the draft AS3786 which has eliminated the MIC 'X' testing. Tragically the draft AS3786 has not been adopted by the ABCB into the BCA and because no one is warning the public about the flawed testing, people continue to needlessly die in house fires.

We will shortly be promoting the latest version of our KEY Report to all Australasian Government Ministers and partners at the top six Australian law firms. You will be pleased to see that we are not including letter to be sent to the CSIRO in the new report. However, we would appreciate being able to:

- a) discuss this issue further - this message is to arrange a convenient time to do so, and
- b) film the CSIRO's AS2362.17 testing.

Please advise.

Thank you.

Stop The Children Burning

Adrian Butler, Chairman

The World Fire Safety Foundation

07 August 2009: World Fire Safety Foundation email copied to CSIRO about Australian Building Codes Board's (ABCB) reason/s for blocking Standard Australia's critical amendment to AS3786

On 7 August 2009 16:24, Adrian Butler <[email address removed](#)> wrote:

Attention:

- Mr Ivan Donaldson, CEO, ABCB
  - c.c.
  - Mr Michael Balch, Deputy CEO, ABCB
  - Mr Ian Johnson, Partner, Mallesons Stephen Jacques, (ABCB Legal Counsel)
  - Dr Megan Clarke, CEO, CSIRO
  - Mr John Tucker, CEO, Standards Australia
  - Mr Adam Liberman, Senior Legal Counsel, CSIRO
  - Mr Detlef Jumpertz, for Senator Kim Carr
  - Margaret May, Federal MP, McPherson
  - Standards Australia Pty Ltd
  - Mr David Isaac, Standards Australia FP2
  - [Richard Bukowski](#), Senior Engineer, Fire Research Group, NIST, USA
  - Richard Taylor, Partner, Taylor Martino, Alabama, USA
- et al

Dear Mr Donaldson

## ABCB - Formal Request for Details of International Research

The World Fire Safety Foundation is in receipt of a letter from Senator Kim Carr regarding our ionisation smoke alarm campaign. Subsequent to the letter we have had discussions with Mr Detlef Jumpertz from Senator Carr's office.

We asked Mr Detlef to provide written confirmation of the ABCB's claims in Senator Carr's letter that due to "International Research" the ABCB has not adopted the critical amendment to AS3786 to close the [deadly loophole](#) that has allowed dangerously defective ionisation type smoke alarms to continue to be sold to the Australian public. We note that the ABCB adopted an amendment to AS1670.1 into the BCA which came into effect in April 2004. The amended commercial installation standard specifically mandates photoelectric detection technology in Australian commercial building to which this standard applies. Empirical CSIRO scientific evidence dating back to 1993 proves ionisation smoke alarms are NOT fit for purpose.

Mr Detlef said the representations made by the ABCB were verbal and therefore suggested I contact your office for confirmation of the 'International Research'.

We note the ABCB has as yet, not responded to the questions in the 'ABCB Open Letter' dated 16 June 2009 which is live on the Foundations website [HERE](#).

Please:

- a) respond to the three questions asked in 'ABCB Open Letter' dated 16 June, 2009,
  - b) advise exactly what International Research the ABCB is referring to in your verbal representations to Senator Carr's office, and
  - c) advise if the 'International Research' has been provided directly or indirectly by Mr Richard Bukowski from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or Underwriter's Laboratories (UL)
- Note: both [NIST](#) and [UL](#) have been accused of Scientific Misconduct in relation to the testing of ionisation smoke alarms.

Mr Donaldson, I have **attached a letter** sent to the Queensland Government today to keep the ABCB, your legal counsel and other stake holders apprised of developments.

We look forward to your response.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Adrian Butler, Chairman  
The World Fire Safety Foundation

29 July 2009: World Fire Safety Foundation email to CSIRO legal counsel re  
litigation concerns with the CSIRO's certification of ionization alarms

On 29 July 2009 15:35, Adrian Butler <[email address removed](#)> wrote:

Attention:  
Mr Brett Walker  
Legal Counsel, CSIRO  
c.c. David Isaac, Standards Australia FP2

Good Afternoon Mr Walker

Thank you for your time on the phone this afternoon. As discussed the World Fire Safety Foundation believes the CSIRO MAY BE DEEMED NEGLIGENT for certifying ionization smoke alarms as fit for purpose AFTER the CSIRO became aware of the deadly loophole in AS3786 (in Feb 2006) which has been acknowledged by the draft AS3786 (08/2009) that has eliminated the flawed 'MIC X' testing which has allowed defective ionization smoke alarms to 'pass' AS3786 testing since 1993.

Dr Steve Morton continues to fail to respond to the Foundations emails. Would you please ask Dr Morton to speak to Mr David Isaac from Standards Australia FP2 committee as it appears his staff at the CSIRO have failed to inform him of the FACT that the existing testing of ionization alarms is flawed and therefore lives are continuing to be put at needless risk.

David Isaac can be reached on [0412 221 469](tel:0412221469)

As discussed, please examine the film, 'Smoke Alarm Recall' on the home page of our website at:  
[www.TheWFSF.org](http://www.TheWFSF.org)

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Adrian Butler  
Chairman  
The World Fire Safety Foundation  
Queensland, Australia