

G E N T

by Honeywell

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To whom it may concern

Gent Fire Optical Detection devices

On the 25th November 2014, the FIA produced a document headed Guidance on the Life Expectancy of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

Within this document it states that ***“It is important to remember that a poorly maintained FD&A system that is giving false alarm signals may cause a loss of faith in the system to the extent that it may become ineffective and this would not then be meeting the requirements of the fire safety legislation...The equipment manufacturer will be the best guide to an expected lifetime for a particular product.”***

As a responsible manufacturer Gent by Honeywell fully supports the FIA’s statement on ensuring the proper maintenance of installed FD&A systems. In accordance with the FIA recommendation above, we clarify in this notice our manufacturer guidance relating to the life expectancy of our current and obsolete optical detector devices that are operational in thousands of sites across the world.

To support this guidance, we have undertaken research into the longevity of integral optical detector components including the smoke chamber’s light scatter LED. The results of this research are as follows:

- The lifetime of a smoke scatter LED in an optical detector is defined as the time expected for it to drop to below 70% of its initial light output, at this stage a detector will cease to operate within its designed specification. We estimate that the smoke scatter LED could reach this threshold within 15 years.
- We have carried out significant fire testing on our devices; in particular on devices which are over 14 years of age and which had been used in normal environments. The results indicate that although many devices are still performing safely, some demonstrated a drop in performance which would take them outside of their original calibrated performance parameters. In some circumstances this may lead to poor performance of the detector and potentially a failure to detect fire early.

In accordance with the FIA’s guidance, we therefore recommend that any devices over **14 years old** should be replaced as part of your buildings’ standard maintenance processes. If you have any sites on which 3400 devices (which were made obsolete in 1996) or any 34000 devices are installed which are over 14 years old, you should arrange a replacement programme with your Gent 24 approved System Integrator.

Our current range of S-Quad detectors will be able to work on most Gent installed FD&A systems; however, if your system has not been modified to support the current range of detectors, there will be a requirement to upgrade. Again, your Gent 24 approved System Integrator will be able to advise on the best course of action.

To download the full FIA Guidance on the Life Expectancy of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems please visit www.fia.uk.com and search for ‘Guidance on the Life Expectancy of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems’

Yours faithfully,

Ben Wolf
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Gent by Honeywell