

**G E N T**

by Honeywell

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To whom it may concern

**Gent Legacy Systems and devices (excluding optical and CO detectors\*)**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 recommendations we have carried out extensive research into many key electronic components found in our systems and devices including, Electrolytic capacitors, UV EPROMs, Monitoring relays and LCD displays.

- Electrolytic capacitors have a finite life expectancy as the liquid electrolyte in the part evaporates over time; in normal conditions they have a life of approximately 20 years. This would mean that any loop device (for example sounders and MCPs) whilst potentially passing activation tests carried out as part of standard systems maintenance, may not be capable of short circuit handling under full alarm conditions.
- UV EPROMs are used to store software on older loop cards within panels and there is likely be leakage of charge over a period of time. The outer limit for these should be 20 years.
- Monitoring relays are operated every minute to detect open circuit faults on older loop cards and for earth fault monitoring. This will result in over ½ million operations each year. Under normal operating conditions, we estimate a life expectancy for these components of no greater than 20 years.
- Older liquid crystal displays used electroluminescent elements to make the displays readable over the required ambient lighting conditions. Under normal conditions it is reasonable to expect that these displays may be active for approximately 3 hours a week, in which event they are likely to reach the end of their useful life in 20 years (if rated to half brightness).

In accordance with the FIA’s guidance, we recommend that all FD&A system components over **20 years old** (excluding optical detection devices and CO detectors\*) should be replaced as part of your buildings standard maintenance processes. A replacement programme should be arranged with your Gent 24 approved System Integrator.

To download the full FIA Guidance on the Life Expectancy of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems please visit [www.fia.uk.com](http://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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\*please see separate guidance on optical detection devices and CO detection devices