



Government of South Australia

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

HOME FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

For further advice contact the Community Safety Department South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service on 8204 3611



ROOF SPACES

Fire dangers associated with the use of heat generating devices in roof spaces

Roof spaces represent a significant fire danger in homes, especially when combined with the use of heat generating devices such as

- down lights,
- hot water services,
- transformers,
- air conditioning units,
- exhaust fans and bathroom "3-in-1" exhaust/heater/light units
- roof gas heaters.

When roof spaces are used as storage areas for surplus furniture, papers and other combustible material the fire risk also increases.

All electrical devices represent a fire risk through the generation of heat, and in roof spaces the risk is increased when insulation and debris from vermin and birds are added to the equation.

The MFS stresses that in roof spaces any heat generating devices must have an appropriate clearance around them. The area must be clear of roof structures, insulating material or combustible material. Particular attention needs to be applied if 'blow-in' insulation has been installed in roof cavities where down lights are fitted.

For recessed luminaires the Australian Standard AS/NZS 3000:2007 identifies a **minimum** clearance of 200mm all round for halogen down lights and a **minimum** clearance of 100mm for incandescent down lights. (See diagram below.)

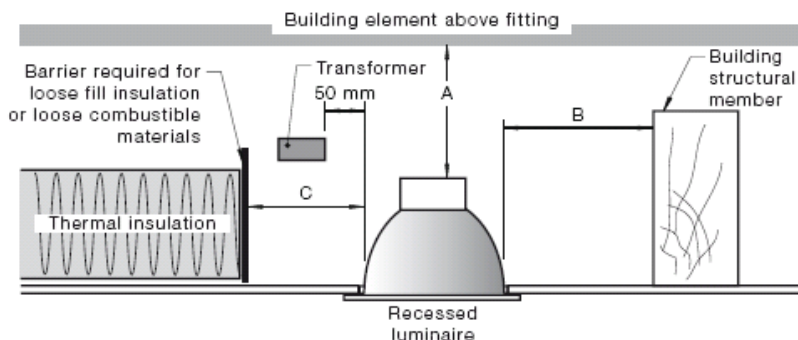


Diagram reprinted from Office of the Technical Regulator, Regulation Roundup, Issue 20, Oct 2007

Dimension	Incandescent lamp	Halogen lamp
A – clearance above luminaire	50 mm	200 mm
B - side clearance to structural member	100 mm	200 mm
C – clearance to thermal insulation	50 mm	200 mm
D – clearance to supply transformer	50 mm	

If any doubt exists, the MFS recommends that you have the areas inspected by a suitably qualified tradesperson.

It is also very important **to maintain and inspect** the roof space annually to ensure that vermin or birds have not introduced combustible material for nests, or moved insulation into the clearance area around heat generating devices.

**For further advice ring the Community Safety Department (08) 8204 3611,
Country callers 1300 737 637
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visit our website www.mfs.sa.gov.au
or call in to 99 Wakefield Street, Adelaide during business hours.**