

## Statement of Principles.

### The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015

#### Introduction

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, a “relevant landlord” of a “specified tenancy” of residential premises must ensure during any period on or after 1 October 2015 when the premises are occupied under the tenancy that:

1. A smoke alarm is equipped on each storey of the premises on which there is a room used wholly or partly as living accommodation.
2. A carbon monoxide alarm is equipped in any room of the premises which is used wholly or partly as living accommodation and contains a solid fuel burning combustion appliance; and
3. Checks are made by or on behalf of the landlord to ensure that each prescribed alarm is in proper working order on the day the tenancy begins if it is a new tenancy.

#### Enforcement

Where the Local Housing Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that...

- There are no or insufficient number of smoke alarms or Carbon Monoxide Detectors in the property as required by the regulations or;
- The Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide Detectors were not working at the start of a tenancy or licence.

...Then the Authority must serve on the Landlord in a method prescribed by the Regulations a Remedial Notice detailing the actions the landlord must take to comply with the Regulations. If after 28 days the Landlord has not complied with the Remedial Notice the Local Authority must issue a Penalty Charge shall be levied through a penalty charge notice (PCN).

#### Principles to be followed in determining the amount of a Penalty Charge

The Authority considers that in the interests of proportionality, a lesser penalty will be merited on the occasion of a first offence only and that prompt payment of the penalty on that first occasion should attract a reduced penalty in recognition of early admission of liability.

The level of penalty should, however, as a minimum, cover the cost of all works in default, officer time, recovery costs, administration fee and a fine. This reflected in the calculation of the first time offence charge.

The Legislation allows the Local Authority to set PCN levels upto a maximum of £5000. Having ensured proportionality, the Enforcement Policy and the interests of regulation, repeat offences should attract a progressively higher penalty in view of a continuing disregard for the legal requirements and tenant safety.

#### Level of Penalty Charge

The Penalty Charge shall be set at **£550.00** for the first offence but this will be **reduced to £400 if paid within a 14 day period** from the date of service.

	<b>Level of PCN</b>	<b>Reduction for early payment</b>
<b>First offence</b>	£550.00	-£150.00
<b>Second offence</b>	£2500.00	None
<b>Third and subsequent offences</b>	£5000.00	None

No discount will be given for prompt payment after the first occasion.

#### Recovery of Penalty Charge

The local housing authority may recover the penalty charge as laid out in the Regulations on the order of a Court, as if payable under a Court Order..

#### Appeals in relation to a penalty charge notice

The landlord can request in writing, in a period that must not be less than 28 days beginning with the day on which the penalty notice was served, that the local housing authority review the penalty charge notice. The local housing authority must consider any representation and decide whether to confirm, vary or withdraw the penalty charge notice. A landlord who is served with a notice confirming or varying a penalty charge notice may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal against the local housing authority's decision.