

Case Study: Argest Technical Services

Data gathering for the Building Amendment Act 2012 Passive Fire/Smoke Requirements

In the time since Christine Scammell started as the Executive Director of Argest Technical Services (Argest) in June 2017 she has implemented many innovative and sustainable business practices. Early on in her role she identified using Clarinspect to manage and do inspections as key amongst her initiatives.



The Auckland City Council recently called for all owners of existing buildings in their territory to locate their passive fire/smoke elements onto a floor plan so that they were in the building's Compliance Manual for BWOFF and Building Management documentation. This decision came after the Sky Tower Fire in Auckland and the Grenfell Tower fire in the UK.

This is a major task that has inspectors going into buildings identifying the location of these elements and marking them onto a floor plan. Malcolm Christie, the Passive Fire Program manager at Argest was already using Clarinspect for other inspections and decided to get another app and report designed specifically for this purpose.

What Argest Needed

Malcolm needed to visit a building and produce a report with a floor plan for each Passive fire/smoke separation system and then a register with details of each of these items/systems.

The output, for example, could be 15 marked up floor plans each with unique pins on them. Each floor plan has a corresponding register with the details about each item identified. Doing this with a pen and paper was difficult, risky and incredibly time consuming.

Clarinspect and Malcolm got to work discussing what was needed by the council, how he worked and established the best design to assist Malcolm onsite, managing a tremendous amount of data.

The Clarinspect Approach

Once we had a clear idea of what was required, we developed the first prototype of the app. For this survey, Clarinspect was able to use Malcolm's previous inspection template as the backbone and starting point to help reduce development costs. We reviewed this with the client and updated based on feedback from actual use. We then worked on the

"I saved time onsite and back in the office. I was able to produce my reports for the client in a much faster timeframe"

Malcolm Christie,
Passive Fire Program Manager,
November 2020

report, reviewing it with Malcolm as we went, refining both the app and report until we had a system that was ready for work in the field.

The Clarinspect system has the ability to assign a unique number to each item, and add a prefix. For this inspection, each time a pin was dropped onto an SS7 backflow floor plan it would start at SS7 -1, then SS7-2 and so on. This enabled each item to have a unique reference number (that Malcolm did not have allocate). We could then use this identifier in the register so it was very easy for the reader to find more details about an item on the floor plan.

The Outcome

Malcolm was very satisfied with the system we had developed. He did not have to carry around massive folders of floor plans onsite and rummage through them to add a pen mark. He could discreetly add information into his device while office workers were present.

He could switch between specified systems at the touch of a button adding the pins to the various floor plans.

The level of detail gathered was much improved as during the development phase we created very precise questions with drop down lists of the most common inputs. The output reports and the marked up floor plans looked professional and tidy, were easy to navigate and have fulfilled the requirements of the Council and Independently Qualified Persons.

There are many functions that Clarinspect has added over the years that contributed to the success of this project. The ability for the system to give numbers automatically, being able to work from the floor plan by dropping pins and doing a long press to access that item. Clarinspect works on and offline, so when Malcolm is in a basement or a site without any internet connectivity he could continue to work without interruption.

Having the report produced in Word(.docx) gives the added ability to check his report and add information that was not available at the time when back in his office.

Malcolm appreciated being able to produce a much higher quality report in a fraction of the time, so all the goals he set out to achieve during this project were met.

Clarinspect and Argest continue to work together on a variety of projects for the many varied services and inspections that Argest Technical Services provide.

