

# CHQ-HUSH System

## Significantly reduces nuisance alarms



Around 80% of all UK fire deaths and injuries occur in dwellings. An horrific figure that could be so easily avoided if proper fire detection is installed.



### CHQ-HUSH System From Hochiki

In houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) tenants quite naturally carry out their own lifestyles. Each dwelling is in effect a separate unit. In the past, on many occasions, all residents in an HMO have had to evacuate their building because of a nuisance fire alarm situation. This is not only very annoying, frustrating and inconvenient but it can lead to complacency where residents start to ignore fire alarm warnings. This is a seriously dangerous situation which could result in fatalities and injuries. Fires spread rapidly from dwellings in close proximity to each other and can quickly destroy entire buildings.

### What Is The CHQ-HUSH System?

*It is a revolutionary fire alarm solution for HMOs*

The **CHQ-HUSH** System is a professional mini fire alarm system specifically designed to sit in each dwelling within an HMO and is linked into the main building's intelligent fire alarm system.

It stops nuisance alarms because each tenant can prevent unnecessary evacuation of the building by simply pushing a silence button from within their own dwelling.

The **CHQ-HUSH** System comprises:

- ▶ 1 x CHQ-HUSH Module
- ▶ 2 x conventional smoke detectors with mounting bases
- ▶ 1 x conventional heat detector with base
- ▶ 1 x conventional sounder beacon
- ▶ 1 x conventional sounder

## Where Is It Used?

The **CHQ-HUSH** is used for HMOs (houses in multiple occupation) such as shared flats, houses, bedsits, hostels, halls of residence, boarding houses, hotels, B&Bs and care homes with permanent residents.

## Why Do We Need It?

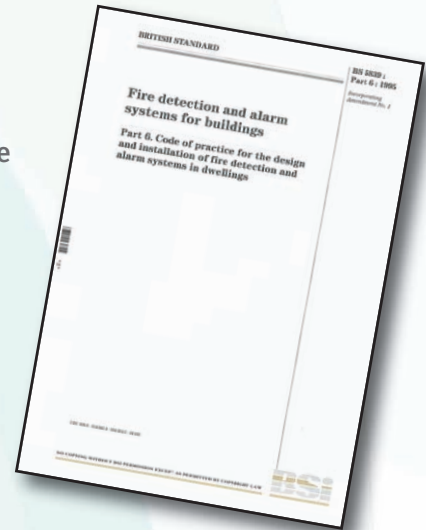
### *Protecting Life by Complying to British Standards*

Recent fire legislation such as the Fire Safety Order makes it clear that the 'responsible person' must be responsible for ensuring up-to-date, fully functional fire safety equipment and procedures are in place in their building.

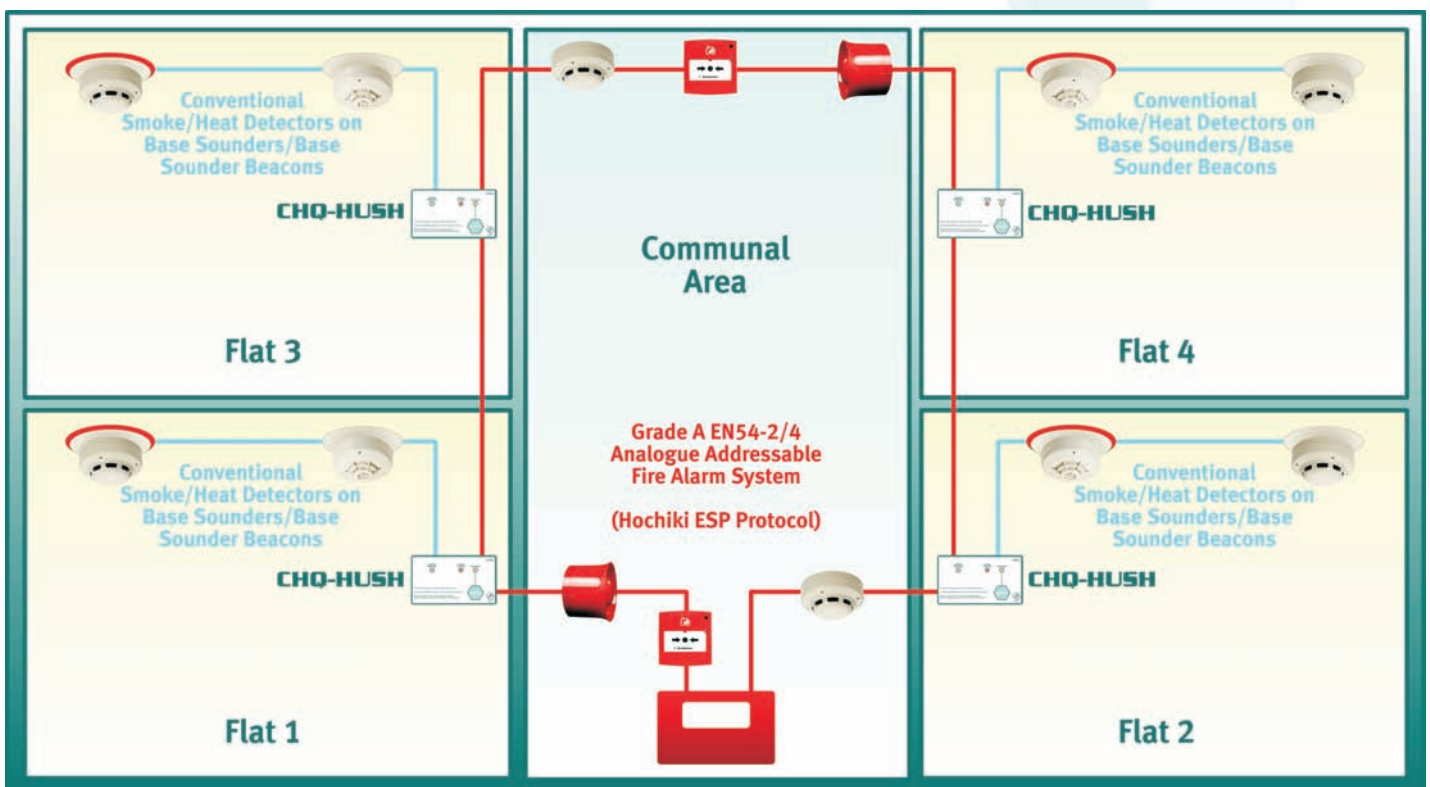
As the dwellings in HMOs are in such close proximity to one another it is vital that the building is fully protected with a high quality fire detection system to ensure rapid alert and evacuation in the event of a fire. It is also very important to minimise nuisance/ false alarms.

According to BS 5839 part 6, (the code of practice for fire alarm systems in dwellings), around 80% of all UK fire deaths and injuries occur in dwellings. Nowhere is the risk greater than in houses in multiple occupation where a fire in one dwelling can quickly spread to another.

The Hush Button solution **meets and exceeds** BS 5839 Part 6.



## A Typical CHQ-HUSH System



## Who Does It Benefit?

### Residents

Keeps them safe and avoids frustration due to evacuation from nuisance alarms.

### Responsible Person

Peace of mind that residents are protected and the property is fully compliant with BS standards. Protects them from fines and potential prosecution due to negligence and their business remains a going concern.

## How Does It Work?

Each **CHQ-HUSH** Module can be looked upon as a miniature fully monitored, self-powered single zone fire alarm panel that sits and is addressed on an analogue loop with the ability to communicate its status back to the main panel.

Typically one double gang **CHQ-HUSH** Module is fitted in each HMO dwelling complete with conventional detectors and sounders to provide occupants with a simple, cost effective means of invoking 2 types of “hushed” period.

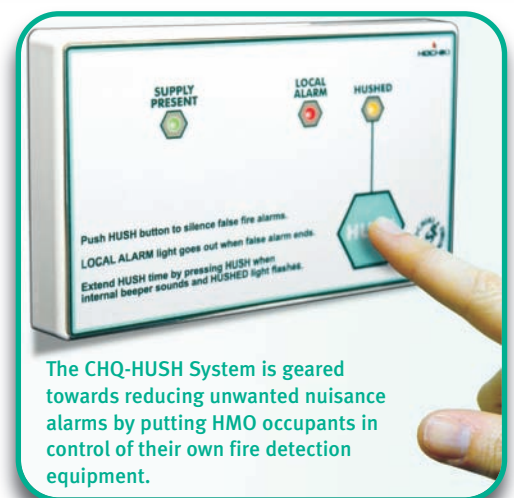
**PRESS THE HUSH BUTTON ON THE CHQ-HUSH MODULE DURING A LOCAL ALARM CONDITION** and a hushed period of 2 minutes begins. If the local zone returns to its normal condition within these 2 minutes, the unit returns to its normal state. If it doesn't, a fire alarm condition is flagged at the host panel to be acted upon according to the building's fire management plan.

**PRESS THE HUSH BUTTON ON THE CHQ-HUSH MODULE PRIOR TO A LOCAL ALARM CONDITION** and a hushed period of 15 minutes begins. During this period, power is cut to the local zone so no alarm signals can be detected. If the hush button is pressed again during this period, the unit reapplies power to the local zone allowing normal signal processing to resume. A beeper gives feedback to the occupant 15 seconds before either hushed period is about to expire. If the hush button is pressed again during this period, the original hushed period of 2 or 15 minutes restarts.

The whole system is geared towards reducing unwanted nuisance alarms by putting HMO occupants in control of their own fire detection systems without losing sight of the fact that its primary purpose is to protect people and property. If, at any time, the main analogue panel enters a general fire condition, it overrides any hushed state at the **CHQ-HUSH** Module and turns on its local sounders/beacons.

Also, depending on the detectors and manual call points used, the **CHQ-HUSH** Module's detector circuit can be configured to send an alarm condition to the main panel the moment a call point or a second detector is triggered, overriding the 2 minute delay.

Moreover, the **CHQ-HUSH** Module and all of its cables are fully monitored. Should an open circuit, short circuit or tampering fault occur, it is relayed to the main panel for the attention of building management via the analogue communication network. This gives the client a level of knowledge of the condition of the system in each dwelling that is simply not available when mains / battery type 'D' systems are installed.



The CHQ-HUSH System is geared towards reducing unwanted nuisance alarms by putting HMO occupants in control of their own fire detection equipment.



## Why Is The HMO Market Growing?

With heightened peaks and troughs in the UK housing market more and more people have made the decision to rent temporary accommodation. With greater demand for rental accommodation the market for HMOs has seen rapid growth during recent years.

In 2004, statistics provided by a local London authority show that the estimated number of HMOs had more than doubled in 5 years. It is becoming increasingly obvious that technology needs to progress to allow for the huge increase in tenants to be able to manage their own false alarms, in turn minimising evacuations and ignorance to true false fire alarms, which can result in fatalities and severe injuries. It is here that the CHQ-HUSH System can make a significant impact.

## How Is The CHQ-HUSH Different To Other Systems On The Market?

Quite simply, each resident has full control of nuisance alarm management within their own dwelling. Other systems on the market only alert to potential fire conditions within a dwelling and provide tenants with the impossible task of silencing the alarm from the central fire alarm system in the communal area of the whole building. Surely residents should not be allowed access to the main fire alarm system – should this not be only for fire specialists to manage?

## The CHQ-HUSH System Kit

Each CHQ-HUSH System comes as a complete kit comprising the following:



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