



**BUILDING REGULATIONS
DIVISION**

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FIRE ALARM POLICY CLARIFICATION STATEMENT

DATE ISSUED: April 27, 2009
BY: Maury Wyckoff, Chief Building Official
EFFECTIVE: May 1, 2009
WORK EFFECTED: Fire Alarm Systems

1. PLAN REVIEW

A. Location of visual notification devices (strobes) must comply with ADAAG when proposing a required system. Below is an excerpt from the Fed's Technical Assistance Bulletin:

Visual alarms are required in every common use room or space in facilities equipped with an emergency alarm system. ADAAG 4.28.1 General stipulates that alarm systems required to be accessible shall provide visible signals in restrooms, in other general and common use areas, and in hallways and lobbies. Common use areas also include meeting and conference rooms, classrooms, cafeterias, filing and photocopy rooms, employee break rooms, dressing, examination, and treatment rooms, and similar spaces that are not used solely as employee work areas.

B. Drawings must be accurate and complete regarding the placement of devices, and any potential obstructions. Failure to do so can hold up inspection approvals. Plan changes must be submitted to our office for review.

2. INSPECTION

A. Rough Fire Alarm System Inspection

1. A rough fire alarm system inspection is required to verify both the location of the devices and the correctness of the wiring methods. **Approved Fire Alarm Permit drawings must be on the job at the time of inspection.**
2. We will inspect for device placement, quantity and compliance with approved drawings, the National Electric Code (NEC), and National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA 72). All boxes, conduit, and wiring must be installed. Cut-in boxes may be used as long as they are properly installed. Above ceiling wiring must be of an acceptable type and be properly supported as governed by the NEC. This inspection may be done before or after the walls have been drywalled, but must be done before any ceiling membrane (drywall, acoustical tile, etc.) has been installed.
3. Note: Electrical boxes and conduit for the alarm system that are installed by the electrical contractor prior to the alarm system permit being issued may be inspected during the general electrical inspection, but only for compliance with the NEC, and such inspection is not a substitute for a Fire Alarm rough inspection. No fire alarm system wiring, equipment, or devices are permitted to be installed until an alarm system permit has been obtained.

B. Final Alarm System Inspection

1. At the completion of all alarm system work, a final inspection by the local Fire Department **must** first be conducted to verify the operation of the system. **Approved Fire Alarm Permit drawings must be on the job at the time of inspection. They are to be given the NFPA 72 installation certification form.**
2. Lastly, we need to inspect the work to verify proper location and placement of all devices, and absence of any obstructions. **Approved Fire Alarm Permit drawings must be on the job at the time of inspection.**