



Mobile Fire-Rescue Department Bureau of Fire Prevention
2851 Old Shell Road Mobile, Al 36607 (251)208-7484 Fax: (251)208-7162



Policies for Fire Protection Systems

March 2010

General

1. Even though the IBC or IFC may not require a system to be installed, systems or components being installed must be designed and installed in accordance with national standards and the manufacture specifications, and must go through the permit, plan review and inspection process (IFC 901.4.2).

2. When a fire protection system is taken out of service as a result of repairs, alterations or other reasons, a fire watch shall be provided.

Include at least the following information on service reports that are sent to the Bureau of Fire Prevention office:

- Business and/or building name
- Correct address that indicates where the system is located
- Date of the inspection
- Type of system and manufacturer

3. Work done without a permit is subject to a “Stop Work Order” in accordance with Section 111 of the IFC, permit appropriate fees and investigation fees charged, and civil penalties being levied.

4. To assist fire department personnel in determining the status of a system, the inspection tag must indicate if the system is a noncompliant system. Please indicate if the system is non-compliant on the regular inspection tag.

5. All service reports for fire protection/detection systems shall be submitted to the Bureau of Fire Prevention Office.



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Fire Alarm

1. New systems tie into existing systems, e.g., clean agent, halon, kitchen hood, etc.
2. Part of the servicing of a system should include assessing whether the sound pressure level (dBA) is compliant with NFPA standards throughout the building.
3. Smoke detectors shall be tested for sensitivity in accordance with Section 907.20.3 of the IFC and NFPA standards.
4. Secondary power is required on all new systems,
Exception existing 120 volt systems as outlined:
 1. 120 volt system serving a one-story building;
 2. 120 volt system with a maximum three horns and four pull stations; where occupants do not sleep in the building; and
 3. Group A-occupancies with an occupant load less than 300 (IFC 907.2.1).
5. Non-compatible smoke detectors will be replaced with compatible devices (NFPA 72 4.4.2).
6. Zones on a Fire Alarm Control Units (FACU) and remote annunciators shall be clearly identified.
7. New systems: FACUs will be located at the entrance of the building or provide an annunciator panel at the entrance and also indicate the location of the main panel.
8. Security systems require fire department review when a fire detection or alarm system is extended from the security system panel. The security panel shall be listed for the combination use (pertains to commercial buildings).



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Automatic Sprinkler Systems

1. Residential sprinkler systems shall be hydraulically calculated and be designed in accordance with NFPA 13D or 13R.
2. Sprinkler systems for speculation warehouses shall be a minimum ordinary hazard Group 2. The design area density shall be a minimum of 0.17/3000 sq. ft.
3. All cooler/freezers shall be sprinklered when located in a sprinklered building.
4. In sprinklered buildings, sprinkler coverage shall be provided in rooms protected by halon, clean agent or other alternative fire extinguishing systems. Exception: if it is an existing condition and no system or room alterations are made.
5. A backflow prevention device shall be installed as required by plumbing codes.
6. Fire Department Connections (FDC) shall be located on the main entrance side of the building or the street side.
7. The exterior water flow alarm and signage shall be located directly above the FDC approximately 10 ft. above grade.

Fire Pump

A test header shall be provided for new installations and systems that are modified or have no means for testing.

Portable Extinguishers

Apartments or condos (Group R-2): if extinguishers are not desirable in the public areas (hallways, exit balconies, lobbies or stairways) because of theft or vandalism, then extinguishers, 2-A:10-B:C minimum, shall be provided in each dwelling unit.