



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



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STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: ARCHITECTURAL PLAN REVIEW STAFF

FROM: HENRY C. REED, SR. - ARCHITECT SUPERVISOR *[Signature]*

RE: FIRE ALARM SYSTEM CONDUCTORS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 1997

It has come to my attention that there exist some confusion and/or inconsistency in the enforcement of fire alarm system wire requirements and the apparent deletion of stranded fire alarm cables requirement. The 1996 NEC still requires that conductors be solid or stranded copper. This requirement may be found in NFPA 70:760-31 and NFPA 70P:760-71. Both these articles of the code address listing and marking of cables. However, there was a stranded fire alarm cable that was deleted in the 1996 NEC. This cable had a special type stranding that was required for fire protection signaling circuit cables by the previous code.

The NFPA 70-760 article of the NEC has been completely rewritten for the 1996 NEC edition. One change was to rename this article from "Fire Protection Signaling Systems" to "Fire Alarm Systems". Most of the information was rewritten and some of the articles were rearranged. The new format is similar to NFPA 725 and 820 for uniformity within the code. Another change was the deletion of NFPA 760-16 (1993) and NFPA 20:760-52 (1993). Both these articles required a special type stranding for fire alarm conductors called "branch-tinned (bonded) stranded copper".

The need for applying this special type fire alarm conductor was not well documented. A recent review by the NFPA Code Committee shows not support for imposing this restriction, therefore it was deleted.

This change in the code will allow standardization on type MP cables to replace previously used type CM, FLP and CL3 cables.

HCR/kmw

CC: Jerry W. Jones
Pat Slaughter

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