Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2014–01

To: Life Safety and Property Protection Contractors
Fire Prevention Bureaus
Chief Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst. Secretary/Plan Review, OSFM
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst. Fire Marshal/Enforcement, OSFM
Chief Brant Thompson, Deputy Chief/Emergency Services, OSFM
Steve Gogreve, Asst. Chief, Area 1
Pat Aronstein, Asst. Chief, Area 2
Lance Carruth, Asst. Chief, Area 3
Boyd Petty, Asst. Chief, Area 4
Bill Owens, Asst. Chief, Special Services

From: Joe Delaune, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: May 28, 2014

RE: **Non-Required Fire Alarm Systems**

NFPA 72, the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2010 Edition), defines a non-required fire alarm system as "*a fire alarm system component or group of components that is installed at the option of the owner, and is not installed due to a building or fire code requirement.*"

This office has a long standing policy of allowing the installation of fire alarm systems that exceed the minimum building or fire code requirements without a full plan review or an inspection by this office for compliance with NFPA 72 requirements. The purpose of this policy is to encourage proactive building owners to go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the adopted codes without imposing additional regulation by this office.

There have been some questions recently regarding the requirements of the adopted codes and standards that address connection to and/or modification of a fire alarm system, if provided or where provided, as they pertain to non-required fire alarm system. Please note that once this office approves the installation of a "Non-Required Fire Alarm System", no further connections to or modifications of the system are required by this office. Specifically, Non-required Fire Alarm Systems are not required by this office to interface with other required building systems (i.e suppression, duct detectors in HVAC systems, kitchen suppression, etc…) as long as these other building systems provide the proper "notification" to the occupants as prescribed by the appropriate NFPA standard for a building without a fire alarm.

Is Yours Working?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives! Savealife@la.gov
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An approved Non-Required Fire Alarm System is one which has been submitted to this office via the "NON-REQUIRED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION" process as outlined in Memorandum 2000-10; "Exemption Request Form for Non-Required Fire Alarm Systems", and is found to not be required by an adopted Code or by an appeal/equivalency review. This process is designed to help the plan review staff determine, and for the building owner to document, that the system is in fact non-required. The building owner may also select to have the system regulated by this office by simply submitting the plans and specifications to this office for review without identifying it as a Non-required system.

NFPA 72 states in part "*Non-required protected premises systems and components shall meet the requirements of this Code.*" It is the interpretation of this office that these requirements are limited to proper operation of the system and compatibility between installed components. The features and functionality of the system are to be as requested by the building owner, as long as it does not interfere or conflict with other life safety features of the building.

State law R.S. 40:1664.1 et seq. and the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 55, Part V, Chapter 30 address the requirements for installation of non-required and/or non-conforming systems. Only authorized firms or persons are permitted to engage in the activity of certifying, inspecting, installing, integration, maintaining and servicing of these systems. It is the responsibility of the licensed fire alarm contractor to verify that the system functions properly and is tagged in accordance with the requirements of LAC 55:V:3033. Maintenance of the system is also required as long as the system remains within the facility.

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