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A Fire Alarm Contractor's Guide to Success

A fire alarm system cannot be defined by a single component, but the totality of composition. The following information has been assembled to assist contractors in the successful installation of a compliant fire alarm system. Regardless of perceived responsibilities, either directly or delegated to another contractor, the fire alarm contractor of record must certify the full compliance and functionality of the entire system. This includes supporting features provided by the structure according to locally adopted ordinances, national codes & standards, and regulatory licensing commission.

Texas Insurance Code Chapter 6002 (formerly Article 5.43-2)

Fire Detection and Alarm Device Installation and 28 TAC §§ 34.600

The Fire Alarm Rules Summer 2016

Texas Insurance Code Chapter 6002 , Fire Detection and Alarm Device Installation Re-codified with non-substantive changes HB2636, 80th Leg.; Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., ch. 730, § 1J.001, eff. April 1, 2009 ; Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., ch. 87, § 14.018, eff. September 1, 2009, 82nd Leg., R.S., § 15.001, eff. September 1, 2011.

§34.607. Adopted Standards.

(a) The commissioner adopts by reference those sections of the following copyrighted minimum standards, recommendations, and appendices concerning fire alarm, fire detection, or supervisory services or systems, except to the extent they are at variance with sections of this subchapter, Insurance Code Chapter 6002, or other state statutes. The standards are published by and are available from the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park - Quincy, Massachusetts 02269. A copy of the standards will be available for public inspection at the State Fire Marshal's Office.

§34.616. Sales, Installation, and Service.

§34.617. Certification.

§34.618. Installation Inspections.

§34.620. Installation Labels.

§34.622. Inspection/Test Labels.

(a) After the inspection and testing of a fire alarm system, a fire alarm inspection/test label must be completed in detail and affixed to either the inside or outside of the control panel cover or, if the system has no panel, in a permanent location. The signature of the licensee on the inspection/test label certifies that the inspection and tests performed to comply with requirements of the adopted standards.

(b) If any service or maintenance is performed under the inspection or test, a service label, in addition to the inspection/test label, must be completed and attached according to the procedures in this section.

(c) For new installation, an inspection/test label may only be applied after the system has been accepted by the local AHJ.

2015 International Fire Code®
Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems

Section 901 General

901.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall specify where *fire protection systems* are required and shall apply to the design, installation, inspection, operation, testing, and maintenance of all *fire protection systems*.

901.2 Construction documents. The *fire code official* shall have the authority to require *construction documents* and calculations for all *fire protection systems* and to require permits be issued for the installation, rehabilitation or modification of any *fire protection system*. *Construction documents for fire protection systems* shall be submitted for review and approval prior to system installation.

901.2.1 Statement of compliance. Before requesting final approval of the installation, where required by the *fire code official*, the installing contractor shall furnish a written statement to the *fire code official* that the subject *fire protection system* has been installed in accordance with *approved* plans and has been tested in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the appropriate installation standard. Any deviations from the design standards shall be noted and copies of the approvals for such deviations shall be attached to the written statement.

901.5 Installation acceptance testing. Fire detection and alarm systems, fire-extinguishing systems, fire hydrant systems, fire standpipe systems, fire pump systems, private fire service mains, and all other *fire protection systems* and appurtenances thereto, shall be subject to acceptance tests as contained in the installation standards and as *approved* by the *fire code official*. The *fire code official* shall be notified before any required acceptance testing.

Section 907 Fire Alarm and Detection Systems

907.1 General. This section covers the application, installation, performance, and maintenance of fire alarm systems and their components in new and existing buildings and structures. The requirements of Section 907.2 are applicable to new buildings and structures. The requirements of Section 907.9 are applicable to existing buildings and structures.

907.7 Acceptance tests and completion. Upon completion of the installation, the fire alarm system and all fire alarm components shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 72.

907.7.2 Record of completion. A record of completion in accordance with NFPA 72 verifying that the system has been installed and tested in accordance with the *approved* plans and specifications shall be provided.

907.7.3 Instructions. Operating, testing and maintenance instructions and record drawings ("as-builts") and equipment specifications shall be provided at an *approved* location

NFPA 72® National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code 2019 Edition

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 NFPA 72 covers the application, installation, location, performance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarm systems, supervising station alarm systems, public emergency alarm reporting systems, fire, and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment and emergency communications systems (ECS), and their components.

Chapter 7 Documentation

7.6 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance Documentation.

7.6.1 Test plan documentation shall be provided in accordance with 14.2.10.

7.6.2 Acceptance testing documentation shall be provided in accordance with 14.6.1.

7.6.6 Record of Inspection and Testing. The record of all inspections, testing, and maintenance as required by 14.6.2.4 shall be documented using either the record of inspection and testing forms, Figure 7.8.2(g) through Figure 7.8.2(l), or an alternative record that includes all the applicable information shown in Figure 7.8.2(g) through Figure 7.8.2(l).

7.7.2 Document Accessibility. (SIG-FUN)

7.7.2.1 With every new system, a documentation cabinet shall be installed at the system control unit or at another approved location at the protected premises.

7.7.2.2 The documentation cabinet shall be sized so that it can contain all necessary documentation.

7.7.2.3* All record documentation shall be stored in the documentation cabinet. No record documentation shall be stored in the control unit.

7.7.2.5 The documentation cabinet shall be prominently labeled SYSTEM RECORD DOCUMENTS.

Chapter 10 Fundamentals

10.20 Documentation and Notification.

10.20.1 Documentation shall be in accordance with Chapter 7.

Chapter 14 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance

14.2.1 Purpose.

14.2.1.1* The purpose of initial and reacceptance inspections shall be to ensure compliance with approved design documents and to ensure installation in accordance with this Code and other required installation standards.

14.2.1.2* The purpose of initial and reacceptance tests of fire alarm and signaling systems shall be to ensure system operation in accordance with the design documents.

14.4 Testing.

14.4.1 Initial Acceptance Testing.

14.4.1.1 All new systems shall be inspected and tested in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 14.

14.4.1.2 The authority having jurisdiction shall be notified prior to the initial acceptance test.

14.4.3.2* Systems and associated equipment shall be tested according to Table 14.4.3.2.

14.6 Records.

14.6.1* **Permanent Records.** After successful completion of acceptance tests approved by the authority having jurisdiction, the requirements in 14.6.1.1 through 14.6.1.3 shall apply.

14.6.1.1 A set of reproducible as-built installation drawings, operation and maintenance manuals, and a written sequence of operation shall be provided to the building owner or the owner's designated representative.

14.6.1.2* The requirements of 7.5.7 shall apply to site-specific software.

14.6.1.3 The system owner shall be responsible for maintaining these records for the life of the system for examination by any authority having jurisdiction. Paper or electronic media shall be permitted.

14.6.3 **Supervising Station Records.** For supervising station alarm systems, records pertaining to signals received at the supervising station that result from maintenance, inspection, and testing shall be maintained for not less than 12 months.

14.6.3.1 Records shall be permitted to be maintained on either paper or electronic media.

14.6.3.2 Upon request, a hard copy record shall be provided to the authority having jurisdiction.