



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

August 1, 2022

I-22-05

Michael Musco P.E.
Musco Engineering Associates
375 Morgan Lane, Unit 307
West Haven, CT 06516

Request for Formal Interpretation of the 2018 Connecticut State Building Code

Mr. Musco,

You have requested a formal interpretation related to section 907.2.9 the 2015 International Building Code portion of the 2018 Connecticut State Building Code (2015 IBC) with the following questions related to the electrical infrastructure for fire alarm systems in new multi-story (greater than 3-story) residential buildings.

Question #1:

To properly comply with ANSI 117.1 2009 a Type A unit needs to have both audio and visual alarms even during a minor power outage since the occupants would still be in their apartments?

Answer #1:

Power requirements for fire alarm systems are found in section 907.6.2 of the 2015 IBC which refers to NFPA 72-2013 which states:

10.6.7.2.1 The secondary power supply shall have sufficient capacity to operate the system under quiescent load (system operating in a nonalarm condition) for a minimum of 24 hours and, at the end of that period, shall be capable of operating all alarm notification appliances used for evacuation or to direct aid to the location of an emergency for 5 minutes, unless otherwise permitted or required by the following...

Question #2:

To properly comply with ANSI 117.1 2009 a Type B unit needs to have the infrastructure wiring to convert from a Type B unit to a Type A unit without having to do additional wiring within the drywall. In essence, all the infrastructure shall be complete?

Answer #2:

Section 907.5.2.3.3 of the 2015 IBC defines fire alarm infrastructure requirements for R-2 dwellings:

907.5.2.3.3 Group R-2. In Group R-2 occupancies required by Section 907 to have a fire alarm system, all dwelling units and sleeping units shall be provided with the capability to support visible alarm notification appliances in accordance with Chapter 10 of ICC A117.1. Such capability shall be permitted to include the potential for future interconnection of the building fire alarm system with the unit smoke alarms, replacement of audible appliances with combination audible/visible appliances, or future extension of the existing wiring from the unit smoke alarm locations to required locations for visible appliances.

Question #3:

According to ANSI 117.1 2009 Section 702.1 do audio and visual alarms units need to be installed for both Type units A and Type B units or can Type B units have their strobes added after conversion to Type A?

Answer #3:

Section 907.5.2.3.3 of the 2015 IBC anticipates the future replacement of audible alarms with audible/visible alarms, i.e., the conversion of a Type B unit to an Accessible or Type A unit.

Question #4:

Do I need a code path to be able to get to Section 702.1 or the ANSI 117.1 2009 in its entirety part of the State Building Code by general preference?

Answer #4:

Yes, a code path would be required.

Question #5:

With the conflict with ANSI A117.1 – 2009 reference of NFPA 72 and the IBC reference of NFPA 72 – The correct year should be 2013 for NFPA 72?

Answer #5:

The correct reference for both portions is NFPA 72-2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph V. Cassidy".

Joseph V. Cassidy, P.E.
State Building Inspector