

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

INFORMATION BULLETIN JUNE 2005

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR PANEL CHANGEOUTS, NEW INSTALLATIONS AND STROBES

FACP REPLACEMENT

The California State Fire Marshal, in code interpretation number 00-009, indicates that in an existing building, the replacement of a fire alarm panel due to obsolescence or because of the addition of strobes may be changed without a complete system upgrade. However, the new panel must be compatible with all existing fire alarm components.

When existing initiating and/or notification devices are not compatible with the new panel, the Los Angeles Fire Department policy shall be that the entire system be upgraded to comply with current code requirements throughout the building. All devices shall be located and installed as per current codes, including NFPA-72, Fire and Building codes, and ADA requirements.

STROBES - Location

When a FACP is replaced and the devices are not compatible the minimum requirement for strobe coverage shall include the following building public/core areas: Corridors, Restrooms, Elevator lobbies and Parking Garages

STROBES - Tenant Improvements

When tenant improvements occur within an existing tenant space, strobes shall be installed within the improved area and the tenant space affected by the work, per code.

Example:

If the work in a new area requires strobe coverage for that area, such as a conference room and the use in the remaining adjoining area would normally require strobes, they shall be installed at that time.

AUDIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Audibility standards shall meet all applicable Fire and Building Codes requirements throughout the building in all circumstances. The mixing of alarm tones shall not be permitted. (NFPA-72)

This bulletin addresses fire alarm system requirements, including strobe and panel replacement in the City of Los Angeles only and does not take precedence over nor does it supercede any other requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other sections of the Fire and Building Codes may apply.

This information bulletin supercedes all previous LAFD bulletins and memorandums addressing this issue.