

Formal Interpretation

NFPA 72®

National Fire Alarm Code®

2007 Edition

Reference: 3.3.43.19, 11.7.2
F.I. 89-1

Question: Is it the intent of the Committee that only devices which comply with the definition of a smoke detector in 3.3.43.19 meet the intent of 11.7.2?

Answer: No. Section 1.5 allows for any device or system that can demonstrate equivalent performance to be “approved.” Data currently exists that could be used by any interested party to demonstrate such equivalency for a device sensing carbon monoxide. If an analysis of this data shows an equivalent performance, carbon monoxide sensing devices could be listed or approved as meeting the requirements of NFPA 72.

Issue Edition: 1989 of NFPA 74
Reference: 1-4, 4-2.1
Issue Date: January 2, 1990
Effective Date: January 22, 1990

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Reference: 4.4.3.6

F.I. 87-3

Background: An initiating device circuit has a water flow device and a valve supervisory device connected to it and by using current limiting techniques provides the distinctive signals (i.e., separate alarm, trouble and supervisory signals) required by NFPA 72, 4.4.3.6.

Question 1: Does this meet the intent of NFPA 72, 4.4.3.6?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1987 of NFPA 72A

Reference: 2-8.5

Issue Date: April 30, 1990

Effective Date: May 20, 1990

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Reference: 5.5.2.1
F.I. 78-2

Paragraph 5.5.2.1. it states “If required..., total coverage shall include all rooms . . ., spaces above suspended ceilings, . . . and chutes.” I am interested in the “spaces above suspended ceilings.”

There are many buildings which have suspended ceilings — acoustic tile exposed T-bar ceilings.

Question 1: Does the above mean that detectors are required on the underside of the suspended ceiling for area protection of the room and also detectors required above the ceiling to protect space between ceiling and roof or space between ceiling and floor above?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Is there any criteria to consider that would not require detectors in the spaces above suspended ceilings?

Answer: Yes. If the space contained no combustible material as defined by NFPA 220 and the ceiling tiles were secured to their T-bar by clips or other methods of fixing such as in an approved fire resistant ceiling-roof assembly or, if the authority having jurisdiction does not require total coverage.

Issue Edition: 1978 of NFPA 72E
Reference: 2-6.5
Date: September 1980

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Reference: 5.5.2.1

F.I. 78-3

Question: Does the installation of small access doors for servicing of smoke or fire dampers make the space above an otherwise nonaccessible ceiling accessible within the intent of the code?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1978 of NFPA 72E

Reference: 2-6.5

Date: September 1980

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Reference: 6.5, 6.6

F.I. 79-8

Background: This is a request for a formal interpretation in regards to the use of addressable initiating devices. Since the control unit or the central supervising station is in two way communication with these devices, then:

Question: If the style of this addressable communication circuit has a different performance (style number) than the remaining portions of the multiplex pathways, would these different circuit performance levels have to be individually specified in order to adequately describe the system?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1979 of NFPA 72D

Reference: 3-9, 3-10

Date: June 1985

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Reference: Table 6.6.1

F.I. 87-1

Question: If the style of a signaling line communication circuit has a different performance (style number as illustrated in Table 6.6.1) than the remaining portions of the multiplex pathways, would these different circuit performance levels have to be individually specified in order to adequately describe the system?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1987 of NFPA 72D

Reference: Tables 2-12.1, 2-13.1

Date: June 1987

Reprinted to correct error: January 1989

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Reference: 8.6.4 and 8.6.4.12

F.I. No.: 72-99-1

Question No. 1: With respect to the application of New Technologies such as Packet Switched Networks, is it the intent that Section 8.6.4 (Other Transmission Technologies) applies to these new technologies rather than other sections of Chapter 8 such as those for Active Multiplex?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: With respect to the application of a fire alarm system communicating over Packet Switched communications network equipment, is it the intent of the phrase “Listed for the purpose,” in paragraph 8.6.4.12, that the premises fire alarm equipment and the supervising station receiving equipment (transmitter and receiver) be listed as fire alarm equipment and the shared on-premises communications equipment be listed to the requirements applicable to general purpose communications network equipment?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1999

Reference: 5-5.4 and 5-5.4.12

Issue Date: September 11, 2001

Effective Date: October 1, 2001

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Reference: 11.7.8.1, 11.7.8.1.1 and 11.7.8.1.2

F.I. No.: 72-07-1

Question: Paragraph 11.7.8.1 and its subparagraphs address the means used to transmit fire alarm signals from household fire alarm systems to constantly attended remote monitoring locations (supervising stations). Is it the intent of these paragraphs to limit the means of transmission to only systems that use a digital alarm communicator transmitter (DACT)?

Answer: No.

Issue Edition: 2007

Reference: 11.7.8.1, 11.7.8.1.1 and 11.7.8.1.2

Issue Date: December 26, 2006

Effective Date: January 15, 2007