



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/2/2009	Interpretation	08-068
Topic	Manual Fire Alarm Box Height for Wheelchair Access		
Code Section(s)	2007 CBC Section 1118B.6, 907.3.2, NFPA Section 5.12.4		
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Background

Section 5.12.4 of NFPA 72 indicates that; the operable part of each manual fire alarm box shall be not more than 54 inches above floor level.

Section 5.12.4 of NFPA 72 as amended indicates that; the operable part of each manual fire alarm box shall not be more than 48 inches above the floor.

The general reach range described in Section 1118B.6 of the California Building Code indicates that; if the clear floor space allows parallel approach by a person in a wheelchair, the maximum high side reach allowed shall be 54 inches above the floor.

Section 907.3.2 of the 2006 International Building Code Commentary indicates that the 48-inch measurement corresponds to the maximum unobstructed side reach height by a person in a wheelchair.

Question

Is it permitted to install a manual fire alarm box in an area that allows parallel approach by a person in a wheelchair such that the operable part is a maximum high side reach of 54 inches?

No. Maximum height for manual fire alarm boxes is 48 inches.