



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	July 29, 2014	Interpretation	14-004
Topic	Emergency Voice / Alarm Communications Systems		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC §907.2.3.3		
Requested by	Interface Engineering Joe Ripp, Senior Fire Alarm Designer		
Date Received	April 2, 2014		

- 1. Does the exception to §907.2.3.3 specifically allow an Emergency Voice/Alarm Communications System to be replaced by a standard temporal horn notification system throughout the occupancy when equipped with a telephone system or an intercom system that provides two-way communication between each classroom and the administration office in an EXISTING occupancy?**

Answer: YES. Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication systems are required in all new Group E occupancies. The exception in §907.2.3.3 allows established school campuses, to keep their existing fire alarm system until it is upgraded or replaced. These established school campuses using this exception, may use other two-way communications when approved by the authority having jurisdiction. When the fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced the new fire alarm system will need to comply with §907.5.2.2 and provide an Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication system. This exception was placed into the California Building Code to allow established school campuses who do not have the associated equipment in their existing fire alarm system to accommodate this new provision without additional upgrades and associated costs.

- 2. Does the exception to §907.2.3.3 specifically allow an Emergency Voice/Alarm Communications System to be replaced by a standard temporal horn notification system throughout the occupancy when equipped with a telephone system or an intercom system that provides two-way communication between each classroom and the administration office in a NEW occupancy?**

Answer: NO. Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication systems are required in all new Group E occupancies. The exception in §907.2.3.3 allows established school campuses, to keep their existing fire alarm system until it is upgraded or replaced. These established school campuses using this exception, may use other two-way communications when approved by the authority having jurisdiction. When the fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced the new fire alarm system will need to comply with §907.5.2.2 and provide an Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication system. This exception was placed into the California Building

Code to allow established school campuses who do not have the associated equipment in their existing fire alarm system to accommodate this new provision without additional upgrades and associated costs.

- 3. Does the exception to §907.2.3.3 specifically allow an Emergency Voice/Alarm Communications System to be replaced by a standard temporal horn notification system throughout the occupancy when equipped with a telephone system or an intercom system that provides two-way communication between each classroom and the administration office in a MODERNIZED occupancy?**

Answer: NO. Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication systems are required in all new Group E occupancies. The exception in §907.2.3.3 allows established school campuses, to keep their existing fire alarm system until it is upgraded or replaced. These established school campuses using this exception, may use other two-way communications when approved by the authority having jurisdiction. When the fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced the new fire alarm system will need to comply with §907.5.2.2 and provide an Emergency Voice / Alarm Communication system. This exception was placed into the California Building Code to allow established school campuses who do not have the associated equipment in their existing fire alarm system to accommodate this new provision without additional upgrades and associated costs.