



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	08-07-00	Interpretation #	00-009
Topic	Fire alarm systems in high-rise buildings.		
Code Section(s)	§102, California Fire Code (1998 ed.) §3403.2, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
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When replacing a fire alarm panel in an existing building, should those parts being replaced be code complying (new panel listing compatible with other existing components such as pull stations, etc.) or should the fire alarm and detection system for the entire building be made code compliant as for new buildings?

In an existing building, the replacement of a fire alarm panel due to obsolescence or because of the addition of strobes, is not intended to retroactively lead to a complete system upgrade or compliance with code requirements not in place at the time that the fire alarm system was originally installed. The new panel, however, must be compatible with all existing fire alarm components.