



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	06-17-02	Interpretation #	02-027
Topic	Synchronized Audible Alarms		
Code Section(s)	§3-7.2, §6-4.4.1.1(a), NFPA 72 (1996)		
Requested by	Dan Varney Greater Alarm 17992 Cowan Irvine, CA 92614-6026		

1. *Is it the intent of the SFM that the interior and exterior audible devices in a Group R, Division 1 occupancy be synchronized?*

No. A fire alarm signal be distinctive in sound and used for no other purpose. Section 3-7.2 of NFPA 72 (1996) requires that the fire alarm signal for the purpose of evacuation be the ANSI S3.41 three-pulse temporal pattern.

2. *Do the exterior visual devices need to be synchronized?*

No.

3. *Do audible devices have to be synchronized within each unit having two or more horns?*

Yes. They must be synchronized in order to maintain the three pulse temporal pattern.