



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	02-05-04	Interpretation	04-001
Topic	Fire Alarm System Inspections, Testing & Maintenance		
Code Section(s)	Sections 7-1.1.4, 7-1.2 & 7-1.2.2, NFPA 71 (1999 ed)		
Requested by	James Harris Maintenance and Operations Supervisor Anaheim Union High School 501 Crescent Wy #301, Anaheim, CA 92805		

Will you please interpret the following provisions of NFPA 72 (1999) regarding inspection, testing & maintenance of fire alarm systems and how they may affect elementary, middle and high school districts?

1. Section 7-1.1.4

Section 7-1.1.4 applies to fire alarm systems installed in both new and existing buildings and facilities including all elementary, middle and high schools, colleges and, universities.

2. Section 7-1.2

Section 7-1.2 requires that the owner or owner's designated representative be responsible for inspection, testing and maintenance of the fire alarm system and any alterations or additions to the system. NFPA also requires that this delegation be confirmed in writing with a copy provided to the authority of having jurisdiction. Written delegation may be in the form of a maintenance/testing contract with a qualified contractor or may recognize a qualified technician employed by the facility.

NOTE: Section 1001.5.1.1 of the California Fire Code (2001 edition) requires fire alarm systems be under the supervision of a qualified person (as described in NFPA 72 and amended in CFC Article 91) who shall cause proper test to be made and shall have general charge of the system. The fire alarm system testing includes all devices and must comply with the California Building Code adopted standards (i.e., NFPA 72-1999 edition, as amended) and the manufacturer's instructions.

3. Section 7-1.2.2

Section 7-1.2.2 requires that fire alarm service personnel be qualified and experienced in the inspection, testing and maintenance of fire alarm systems. Examples of qualified fire alarm service personnel in California include:

- A. Factory trained and certified by the fire alarm manufacturer for the type of fire alarm equipment qualified to service.
- B. National Institute of Certification in Engineering Technology (NICET) fire alarm certified.
- C. Certified by a State or Local Authority.
- D. International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) fire alarm certified.
- E. Other trained and qualified personnel employed by an organization listed by a national testing laboratory for the servicing of fire alarm systems.