



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	May 9, 2008	Interpretation	08-013
Topic	Smoke Control Systems: Fire/Smoke Damper Blade Position Monitoring		
Code Section(s)	2001 CBC 905.7.5 and 905.9.1		
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We are requesting an interpretation of fire/smoke damper (FSD) position monitoring per 2001 CBC 905.7.5 and 905.9.1, for smoke control in a life safety system.

Is shaft monitoring acceptable for reporting damper position in a fire/life safety application where the damper blade position is confirmed by a “cam switch” which is attached to the shaft with redundant set screws, as approved by the manufacturer’s listing?

Yes. A cam switch as approved by the manufacture’s listing, secured to the shaft with set-screws which are inset into the shaft surface by means of a flat spot, dimple or similar safeguard on the shaft and in combination with a lock-tight type adhesive on the set screws to assure a positive and permanent connection would comply with the intent of the code.

CBC Section 905.9.1 requires the confirmation of fire/smoke damper blade position and specifies that the monitoring be accomplished by limit or proximity type switches.

The code requirement for damper blade position confirmation is performance based and not prescriptive. The code does not specify the various methods of confirmation of damper blade position status.