



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	1/28/11	Interpretation	10-046
Topic	R-2 visible alarm notification capabilities		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Fire Code Section 907.10.1.4 (Group R-2)		
Requested by	Kevin M. Green President California Automatic Fire Alarm Association P. O. Box 2538 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (888) 607-5959 INFO@CAFAA.COM		

The California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA) is requesting a Code Interpretation of CFC Section 907.10.1.4.

Section 907.10.1.4 indicates “all dwelling units and sleeping units shall be provided with the capability to support visible notification appliances in accordance with NFPA 72.”

1. Is the intent to provide the immediate installation of the required power supplies, wiring, electrical boxes, circuits, and future device locations to provide visible notification devices when the fire alarm system is being installed, so that in the future when a hearing impaired occupant request visible notification devices to be provided immediately, the audible devices will be changed and added to provide visible/audible notification devices in the associated unit?

NO. (See answer to Question # 2)

2. Is the intent to provide a means (i.e. electrical raceways, boxes, and/or cable) to all dwelling units and bedrooms with the future capacity to provide visible notification devices and power supplies in the required dwelling units and bedrooms in the future?

Yes. It is the intent of the model code to have all dwelling units and sleeping units pre-wired to support future installation of visible notification appliances in all units. The wiring shall not be limited to fire alarm notification circuits and the associated junction boxes, and depending on the design may include signaling line or initiating circuits and/or 120VAC power. In lieu of actual pre-wiring, approved electrical conduit installed in all units with suitable junction boxes and direct termination at the fire alarm control unit location would be an acceptable alternative.

The fire alarm system designer shall provide complete plans, which shall include details showing how future visible appliance expansions are to be accomplished.

Visible appliances, connections to smoke alarms or system detectors and additional fire alarm equipment (NAC panels, power supplies, batteries, etc.) necessary for future expansion need not be installed until visible appliances are deemed necessary.

3. Is the intent to ensure that the system is capable of expansion in dwelling units and bedrooms in the future by any means possible (i.e. adding conduit, cable, power supplies, and devices); when required to do so in the future?

See answer to Question # 2