



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

October 15, 2007

New Requirement under UL 38 Manually Actuated Signaling Boxes 1999 Edition, with California Amendments

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has adopted the 1999 Edition of UL-38, Manually Actuated Signaling Boxes for Use with Fire Protective Signaling Systems, with California Amendments. This will become effective on January 01, 2008.

Section 14.1.5 of UL-38 is amended as follows:

A signaling box having a glass panel, disc, rod, or similar part that must be broken to operate it for a signal or for access to its actuating means shall satisfactorily complete five part-breaking operations using the means provided with the box, without jamming of the mechanism or other interference by broken particles. It shall be practicable to remove and replace the broken parts. *A signaling box shall not have a glass panel, disc, rod, or similar part requiring a striking action by grasping a tool to operate it for a signal. The force required to activate controls shall be no greater than 5 pounds (22.N) of force.*

4.1.5 Operation. *Controls and operating mechanisms shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.*

Effective January 1, 2008 new listing applications for fire alarm boxes shall comply with UL-38 1999 Edition, with California amendments. Existing products listed by SFM prior to this date may continue to be listed.

If you have any questions or clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to contact Francis Mateo, BML Program Coordinator, at (916) 445-8396 or e-mail: francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>