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Statement of Substantial Need for Earlier Implementation

I hereby find, pursuant to §1043, subdivision e, paragraph 1(c) of the New York City Charter, and hereby represent to the Mayor, that there is substantial need for the implementation of new Section §907-01 of Title 1 of the Rules of the City of New York, governing the technical standards for the installation of one-way emergency voice communications systems, upon the publication in the City Record of its Notice of Adoption.

This is one of the Rules needed to implement the City's new Construction Codes, including the Building Code, which became effective on July 1, 2008. The New York City Administrative Code authorizes the Department to specify by rule the technical standards to be used in the installation of one-way emergency voice communications systems, which are tools for the Fire Department's use during a fire. This rule implements that mandate. The new codes are in effect already and thus this rule must go into effect as soon as possible.

Robert D. LiMandri
Acting Commissioner
Department of Buildings

APPROVED: _____
Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

DATE: 8/21/08

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the authority vested in the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings by Section 643 of the New York City Charter and in accordance with Section 1043 of the Charter, that the Department of Buildings hereby adopts the addition of Section 907-01 of Title 1 of the Official Compilation of the Rules of the City of New York, regarding the technical standards for the installation of one-way emergency voice communications systems.

This rule was published on June 18, 2008 and a public hearing was held on July 21, 2008.

Dated: 8/13, 2008
New York, New York

Robert D. LiMandri
Acting Commissioner
Department of Buildings

Section 1. Title 1 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding a new Chapter 900 and a new Section 907-01 to read as follows:

Chapter 900
Fire protection Systems

§907-01 One-way emergency voice communication systems.

(a) Scope. All one-way emergency voice communication systems in Group R-2 occupancies installed for Fire Department use, including systems installed in Group R-2 occupancies where such systems are not required by the building code, shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

(b) References. See section 907.2.12.2 of the building code (Emergency voice/alarm communication system).

(c) Installation requirements. One-way emergency voice communication systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72-02 edition, modified for New York City as follows:

(1) Add a new section 4.4.7.2.3 as follows:

4.4.7.2.3 One-Way Emergency Voice Communications Circuits in Group R-2 Occupancies. Where a one-way voice communications circuit is provided, such system shall comply with provisions for notification appliance integrity monitoring including sections 4.4.7.1, 4.4.7.2.1, 6.4 and 6.7 and shall meet the classifications for Class A-Style Z performance requirements of table 6.7.

(2) Revise section 6.3 (7) to add at the end the following: “, including one-way emergency voice communication systems in Group R-2 occupancies”.

(3) Revise section 6.4.2 to add after the phrase “notification appliance circuits” the following: “(including one-way emergency voice communication systems in Group R-2 occupancies),”.

(4) Revise section 6.9.6.5 to add after the phrase “two-way voice communications service” the following: “or the one-way emergency voice communications system in Group R-2 occupancies”.

(5) Revise section 6.9.7.2 to add a exception to read as follows: “Exception: In a one-way emergency voice communications system serving a Group R-2 occupancy, at a minimum, one speaker or speaker station shall be located in each dwelling.”

(6) Add new sections 6.9.10 through 6.9.10.7 as follows:

6.9.10 One-Way Emergency Voice Communications System.

6.9.10.1 Scope. One-way emergency voice communications equipment shall be installed in accordance with section 6.9.10.

6.9.10.2 Fire Department Use. One-way emergency voice communications service, where provided, shall be for use only by the Fire Department or by building personnel authorized to use such service who have obtained a Certificate of Fitness from the Fire Department.

6.9.10.2.1 Activation. The voice communication panel at the annunciator panel shall be operated only by the Fire Department with activation of FDNY 2642 Key.

6.9.10.2.2 Building Personnel Use. If requested by a building owner, building personnel who have obtained a FDNY Certificate of Fitness shall be permitted to utilize the system from a panel at the concierge or security desk.

6.9.10.3 Permitted Variation. Any variation of equipment and system operation, if permitted by the Fire Commissioner, provided in order to facilitate additional uses of any one-way emergency voice communications service shall not adversely affect performance when used by those authorized pursuant to section 6.9.10.2 of this chapter.

6.9.10.4 Speaker Stations. Speaker stations shall be installed in each dwelling unit and on every fourth floor in every required vertical exit enclosure.

6.9.10.5 System Zones. One-way emergency voice communication systems shall, at a minimum, have the capability for an all-call function to all speaker stations, and shall have the capability of permitting simultaneous operation of any and all of the following selectable zones:

(1) All speaker stations within the dwelling units on any given floor; and

(2) All speaker stations within a given required vertical exit enclosure.

6.9.10.6 Dwelling Unit Intercoms. One-way emergency voice

communication systems may share wiring, speaker stations and other components with an intercommunication system required by section 1008.4.4 of the building code provided the entire system otherwise complies with the provisions of this chapter.

STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

This rule is promulgated pursuant to the authority of the Commissioner of Buildings under sections 643 and 1043 of the New York City Charter and Section 28-103.19 of the New York City Administrative Code.

Pursuant to Local Law 33 of 2007, as codified in Sections 907.2.12.2 of the New York City Building Code, this rule establishes the technical standards for the installation of one-way emergency voice communications systems in compliance with that mandate by making additions and amendments to NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, 2002 edition, for purposes of the application of such referenced standard in the City of New York in relation to one-way emergency voice communication systems.