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TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BULLETIN # 03-2/2012

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Effective Date: Immediately

Subject: The Use of Managed Facilities Voice Networks as Transmission Carriers of Fire Alarm System Signals to Central Station.

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to provide a determination of when a Managed Facilities Voice Network (MFVN) is suitable to be used as a method to transmit a fire alarm signal to a supervised station. Also, the bulletin will help determine if the MFVN is equivalent to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) in regards to transmission of fire alarm signals from protected premises to an approved central station.

II. Overview:

Telephone providers have introduced various new technologies to transmit voice communications. In order to facilitate the further development of the telephone network, the authorized common carriers have transitioned their equipment into a managed facilities voice network (MFVN) capable of providing a variety of communications services in addition to the provision of traditional telephone service.

NFPA 72, 2010 Edition, 3.3.141 defines a Managed Facilities-based Voice Network (MFVN) as a physical facilities-based network capable of transmitting real time signals with formats unchanged that is managed, operated, and maintained by the service provider to ensure service quality and reliability from the subscriber location to public switched telephone network (PSTN) interconnection points or other MFVN peer networks

III. Requirements:

The MFVN connection is considered acceptable to transmit Fire Alarm communications in the City of New York once the requirements of NFPA 72, 2010 Edition¹ and Section 3.1 and 3.2 of this bulletin are provided.

3.1. NFPA 72, 2010 Edition¹ states that a MFVN is functionally equivalent to traditional PSTN-based services if the following requirements are satisfied:

- A. Equivalent to dialing, dial plan, call completion, carriage of signals and protocols, and loop voltage;
- B. Loop start telephone circuit service interface;

- C. Pathway reliability that is assured by proactive management, operation, and maintenance by the MFVN provider;
 - D. 8 hours of standby power supply capacity for all MFVN equipment located at the protected premises or field deployed. The MFVN equipment monitors the condition of the standby battery to permit the communications service provider to take appropriate action;
 - E. 24 hours standby power for MFVN communications equipment located at the communications service provider's central office;
 - F. Installation of network equipment at the protected premises with safeguards to prevent unauthorized access to the equipment and its connections.
- 3.2. The MFVN should operate in the City of New York pursuant to one or more licenses, legal authorizations or decisions from, or under the oversight of, the Federal Communications Commission, New York Public Service Commission, or other appropriate authorizing agency or authority.

IV. Submission

Upon the request for an inspection of the Fire Alarm System, a copy of the Managed Facilities Voice Networks Certification Form (FA-12) accepted by FDNY shall be furnished to the Fire Alarm Inspection Unit.

¹ *NFPA 72, 2010 Edition, Annex A3.3.141 is referenced for guidance and is not to be misconstrued as a regulatory adoption of NFPA 72, 2010 Edition*