



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
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TECHNICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE NOTICE #1/93

TO: Distribution

FROM: Richard C. Visconti, A.I.A.
Acting Deputy Commissioner

DATE: February 26, 1993

SUBJECT: Existing Approved Class E and Modified Class E Fire Alarm Systems: Extension of A and B Speaker Circuits in lieu of Speaker Supervision in Existing High-Rise Office Buildings

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: An alteration of a floor in an existing office building (also if tenant performs minor alteration work) may require additional speakers or the relocation of existing speakers. This Technical Policy and Procedure Notice will allow minor alteration work under the requirements of the existing law.

SPECIFICS: Administrative Code Section 27-972(f)(7) of Local Law 5/73 requires that a loud speaker system shall be so designed and installed that approximately fifty (50) percent of the system shall remain operable throughout the building in the event that the other fifty (50) percent becomes inoperable.

This requirement resulted in the installation of speakers on A and B circuits. Fifty (50) percent of the system was required to be installed on the A circuit and the other half on the B circuit.

Reference Standard RS17-5 was amended under BSA Cal. #310.90 BCR to adopt NFPA 72-1990 for installation, maintenance and use of protective signalling system. Section 10-4.4.2 of this standard requires speaker supervision to report trouble at the Fire Command Station. Pursuant to Administrative Code Section 27-114(a) of the Building Code, any alteration or addition to interior fire alarm and signal system shall conform with the requirements of the current code.

The Fire Alarm Code Interpretation Advisory Committee recommends that Administrative Code Section 27-114(a) be interpreted to permit the extension of existing two speaker circuits for an alteration or addition to an existing Class E or Modified Class E Fire Alarm System. It is the determination of the committee that the requirements of Local Law 5/73 for two speaker circuits be accepted in lieu of speaker supervision required by NFPA 72 for existing Class E Fire Alarm Systems.

Therefore, the addition of speakers to an existing Class E and Modified Class E Fire Alarm System in existing buildings will be permitted by extending the existing unsupervised A and B speaker circuits, and such addition will not require speaker supervision.