

MAINTAIN, REPAIR, INSPECT, AND/OR TEST FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

901.6 Inspection, testing and maintenance. Fire detection, alarm and extinguishing systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times, and shall be replaced or repaired where defective. Non-required fire protection systems and equipment shall be inspected, tested and maintained or removed.

907.20.1 Maintenance required. Whenever or wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection or any other feature is required for compliance with the provisions of this code, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection or other feature shall thereafter be continuously maintained in accordance with applicable NFPA requirements or as directed by the fire code official.

907.20.2 Testing. Testing shall be performed in accordance with the schedules in Chapter 7 of NFPA 72 or more frequently where required by the fire code official. Where automatic testing is performed at least weekly by a remotely monitored fire alarm control unit specifically listed for the application, the manual testing frequency shall be permitted to be extended to annual.

Exception: Devices or equipment that are inaccessible for safety considerations shall be tested during scheduled shutdowns where approved by the fire code official, but not less than every 18 months.

907.20.5 Maintenance, inspection and testing. The building owner shall be responsible for ensuring that the fire and life safety systems are maintained in an operable condition at all times. Service personnel shall meet the qualification requirements of NFPA 72 for maintaining, inspecting and testing such systems. A written record shall be maintained and shall be made available to the fire code official.

EXPLANATION

All fire alarm and fire detection systems shall be inspected, tested, and maintained per national codes, standards, and accepted practices. See N.F.P.A. Standard # 72 for testing intervals and procedures of fire alarm systems.

RATIONALE

Fire alarm systems are designed to notify the Fire District and/or to activate fire-extinguishing systems in your building at the earliest stages of a fire. This early notification can help to minimize damage caused by fires by extinguishing the fire as soon as possible. By requiring periodic inspection, testing and maintenance, we can help to ensure that the fire alarm system will function properly.